

Bavarian News

Vol. 6, Nr. 11

U.S. Army Garrisons Grafenwoehr, Hohenfels, Ansbach, Schweinfurt and Garmisch

June 9, 2010

HOHENFELS

Still going ...

A 79-year-old flight surgeon returns to active duty after his fourth retirement

PAGE 17

ANSBACH

Summer showcase

Ansbach agencies gear up for summer with an information-packed open house

PAGE 18

GARMISCH

Trading places

Military police with the Nevada National Guard swop desert climes for something more alpine

PAGE 20

SCHWEINFURT

Einstein elementary

Elementary students think outside the box during a science and invention fair

PAGE 22



Happy Birthday

Come celebrate the Army's 235th birthday, June 14, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Grafenwoehr Dining Facility.

On the menu are steak, lobster, barbecued ribs, various salads, and of course, apple pie.

Also, you might be Army Strong, but take a quiz on page 12 to see if you're Army Smart.

Century shot

The community is invited to attend a ceremony commemorating the 100th anniversary of the first shot fired on the Grafenwoehr Training Area. See page 3.

See the June 23 edition of the *Bavarian News* for a full listing of 100th GTA anniversary events.

Index

Opinion Editorial	2
News	3-10, 24-25
Medical	11
What's Happening	12-13
Travel	15
Sports	23
Movies	26
AAFES	27

‘Operation Better Half’



Wives of 3rd Battalion, 159th Aviation Regiment, Soldiers compete in a litter-carry obstacle course during a Combat Spouse Day hosted by the 12th Combat Aviation Brigade at Franken Kaserne, May 21. The team, which nicknamed itself “Charlie’s Angels,” took second place.

Right: Angela Kohler sashes through a puddle during the mud run portion of the 12th CAB Combat Spouse Day. Twenty-four teams of 12th CAB spouses competed in several team-building events designed to maintain morale while their Soldiers are deployed.



24 teams prove mettle for Combat Spouse Day

Story and photos by
Sgt. Anna K. Perry
*12th Combat Aviation Brigade
Public Affairs*

KATTERBACH, Germany – Challenges are nothing new for spouses of deployed Soldiers. Left-behind loved ones are used to banding together to thrive during difficult times. The 12th Combat Aviation Brigade recently tested the teamwork and audacity of Griffin wives – and a few husbands – by hosting a Combat Spouse Day.

The event, dubbed “Operation Better Half,” kicked off bright and early at Franken Kaserne, May 21. Leaders and Soldiers of 12th CAB came out in full force to support 24 teams of four spouses each compete for a trophy and bragging rights.

Spouses from 12th CAB and all brigade subordinate units represented, from the smallest element, the 3rd Airfield Operations Battalion, 58th Aviation Regiment, to the farthest element, the 1st Battalion, 214th Aviation Regiment, out of Mannheim, Germany.

Unlike the day-to-day difficulties of deployed life, the Combat Spouse Day challenges were designed to be entertaining.

“We started out with a six-event round robin competition. In that competition, we had a crate climb, we had two paint ball competitions - one was a capture the flag event, and the other one was target shooting and a grenade toss into the woods. We also had a tug of war competition, a

See COMPETITION, page 25

Zachar the new ‘Blackhawk 6’

After leading two years Sinclair passes reins of 172nd Infantry Regiment

Story and photo by
Spc. Bethany L. Little
172nd Infantry Brigade Public Affairs

With the threat of rainy and overcast skies, Col. Jeffrey A. Sinclair prepared for his last official act as commander of the 172nd Infantry Brigade.

After two years of service, Sinclair relinquished his command to Col. Frank Zachar on the Grafenwoehr Parade Field during a change of command ceremony, May 26.

After a morning of clouds and rain, the skies cleared before the Soldiers from the 172nd Inf. Bde., marched on to the field to say goodbye to Sinclair and welcome Zachar.

The ceremony invoked tradition with the passing of the colors, representing the passing of command within the brigade. Sinclair passed the colors to Brig. Gen. Michael A. Ryan, deputy commanding general, U.S. Army V Corps, symbolizing the relinquishment of his command and authority for both mission accomplishment and Soldier welfare. Ryan then passed the colors to Zachar, who assumed the same command and authority within the 172nd Inf. Bde.

“Under Sinclair’s leadership, these infantrymen have proven themselves as

a tough, combat-tested organization,” said Ryan.

Sinclair joined the brigade as the battalion commander for 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment. After completing the Naval War College, he returned as brigade commander for 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, until the unit reflagged as the 172nd Inf. Bde. in May 2008.

“I feel that the unit is losing a great commander,” said Sgt. Dexter Morrow, signal system support specialist, 25th Combat Aviation Brigade, a former 172nd Inf. Bde. Soldier. “He actually cared for the unit and our overall mission in Iraq.”

As commander of the brigade, Sinclair established the “Blackhawk” legacy and reformed the organization expecting nothing but excellence from his formation.

“I’m really sad to see him go,” said Staff Sgt. Mary J. Lavoie, schools non-commissioned officer, 504th Military Intelligence Company, 172nd Inf. Bde. “He did a great job motivating Soldiers while we were in Iraq.”

Sinclair created a sense of unit cohesion among the brigade through his use of Blackhawk-themed events and his liberal use of celebratory bonfires.

Before taking his final farewell, Sinclair sent out one last message as Blackhawk 6.

“I put the utmost trust in these Soldiers to welcome Frank and Michelle



Col. Jeffrey A. Sinclair (right) passes the 172nd Infantry Brigade colors to Brig. Gen. Michael A. Ryan, deputy commanding general, U.S. Army V Corps, during the change of command ceremony held at the Grafenwoehr Parade Field, May 26.

Zachar to the formation,” said Sinclair. “I want every Soldier to unleash Col. Zachar’s potential as commander as they have let me unleash mine.”

Graf’s Berber is Soldier of the Year

by **Tom Saunders**
IMCOM-Europe Public Affairs

HEIDELBERG, Germany – For a third-straight year, a noncommissioned officer from U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart was selected as the Installation Management Command-Europe NCO of the Year at the Installation Management Command-Europe Best Warrior Competition award ceremony, June 1, at Heidelberg’s Patrick Henry Village Pavilion.

At the event attended by approximately 300 loud and proud attendees, Staff Sgt. Christopher McDougall, a military policeman, was announced as Noncommissioned Officer of the Year, while Spc. Luis Berber, a military policeman from USAG Grafenwoehr received Soldier of the Year honors.

“Stuttgart kept its winning streak alive, and IMCOM Soldiers in Europe kept alive their streak of displaying outstanding professionalism and Soldiering excellence during this contest,” said IMCOM Europe Command Sgt. Maj. Tracey Anbiya.

The top NCO and Soldier were congratulated from Diane Devens, IMCOM-Europe region director, who presented all competitors with certificates and a director’s coin, while a host of corporate sponsors from various military communities also recognized awardees.

The Soldier competition was held at Grafenwoehr in May where participants underwent a comprehensive evaluation of skills ranging from physical fitness to military knowledge, including land navigation exercises, weapons qualification and written exams.

“Like their fellow soldiers in tactical combat units, our IMCOM Soldiers maintain their sense of warrior proficiency to be able to execute on the battlefield when the calls to arms is sounded.

“But our IMCOM Soldiers also maintain their ‘at home’ mission by taking care of our communities,” said Anbiya. “It is the spirit of the IMCOM Soldier that we recognize today.”

The two region selectees now will represent Installation Management Command-Europe at the Military District of Washington competition scheduled for next month at Fort Belvoir, Va.

IN THIS EDITION

Strength through adversity

A former Cuban refugee uses his experiences to better the Army

PAGE 6

Emerald islanders

Local correspondent recalls a visit that began with a zero-euro flight

PAGE 15

Robo-Stryker

The Army is developing a hybrid, six-wheeled combat vehicle

PAGE 24



Bavarian News

Grafenwoehr, Hohenfels, Ansbach, Schweinfurt, and Garmisch

Commander, U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr
Col. Chris Sorenson

Public Affairs Officer
Kim Gillespie

kim.c.gillespie@eur.army.mil
DSN 475-8103, CIV 09641-83-8103

Managing Editor

Jeremy S. Buddemeier
jeremy.buddemeier@eur.army.mil
DSN 475-7113, CIV 09641-83-7113

Assistant Editor

Trecia A. Wilson
trecia.wilson@eur.army.mil
DSN 475-7775, CIV 09641-83-7775

Grafenwoehr Correspondent

Molly Hayden
molly.hayden@eur.army.mil
DSN 475-8886, CIV 09641-83-8886

Garmisch Correspondent

John Reese
william.john.reese@eur.army.mil
DSN 440-3701, CIV 08821-750-3701

Schweinfurt Correspondents

Eva Bergmann & Nathan Van Schaik
eva.nina.bergmann@eur.army.mil
nathan.vanschaik@eur.army.mil
DSN 354-1400, CIV 09721-96-1400

Hohenfels Correspondent

Kristin Bradley
kristin.bradley@eur.army.mil
DSN 466-4917, CIV 09472-83-4917

Ansbach Correspondent

Ronald Toland
ron.toland@eur.army.mil
DSN 468-1600, CIV 09811-83-1600

Advertising: Retail advertising and classifieds, www.milcom.de, CIV 09641-670-500

Address: U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr Public Affairs
Attn: Bavarian News
Unit 28130, APO AE 09114

We want to hear from you!

The *Bavarian News* welcomes articles from Army organizations and announcements from the general public about events of interest to the military community.

If you have newsworthy ideas or stories you'd like to submit, coordinate with the managing editor at 475-7113, or e-mail jeremy.buddemeier@eur.army.mil. Prior coordination is mandatory.

The editorial deadline for articles and announcements is noon on Tuesday, the week prior to the publication date. Publication dates can be found at www.milcom.de.

All editorial content is the responsibility of the U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr Public Affairs Office.

The *Bavarian News* is an authorized publication for members of the Department of Defense. Contents of the *Bavarian News* are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the U.S. Army.

The *Bavarian News* is published every two weeks by Werbeagentur und Verlag Roswitha Lehner, a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Army under exclusive written contract with U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr. The newspaper has a printed circulation of 9,800.

Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use, or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation, or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the U.S. Army or Milcom Advertising Agency of the products or services advertised.

Water Tower art by Dane Gray

CSM CORNER



Keeping everyone safe is a win-win scenario

Summer is quickly approaching and with it comes a number of hazards and the biggest hazard we face is inattention.

When we're out there having a good time, we get complacent and forget the dangers that exist in everyday activities. Things as simple as grilling a hamburger or hiking on a marked trail can have disastrous consequences if we don't plan properly.

"Historically, our off-duty fatality rates inevitably increase from April to September," said Brig. Gen. William Wolf, U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center commanding general and director of Army Safety. "In fiscal 2009, almost 40 percent of our accidents occurred during this timeframe, with POV and motorcycle accidents leading the way every month."

As a result of these accidents, we lose quality Soldiers, friends and family members. Take the time this summer to set a good example for your children and your Soldiers.

There's a common saying, "It takes a village to raise a child." This adage applies not only to young

children, but to our young Soldiers as well. They rely on us, as adults and leaders, to provide good examples and guide them well.

I know you're out there working hard and you deserve to play hard, too. I don't want you to quit playing; I just want you to play it safe. When you play with safety in mind, it's a win-win scenario. Everyone



comes home alive.

Leaders, from junior NCOs and officers all the way up to senior leaders should listen to their Soldiers. Take the time to get involved and remind them to play safely. When you hear of activities that have the potential to escalate dangerously, intervene and motivate them to make it a habit to think first about their actions.

The Army has put together a new campaign called

the 2010 Safe Summer campaign, which has loads of great ideas and common-sense measures that everyone, including myself, should think about while planning summer activities.

For more information about the 2010 Safe Summer campaign visit <https://safety.army.mil>, and click on the Safe Summer icon at the bottom of the site. In addition, check future editions of the Bavarian News for updates and information. In this edition (on page 10), community members are encouraged to put safety in their grilling, hiking and boating plans.

Let's make summer 2010 the safest summer yet by getting an early start on watching out for one another while we're out there playing.

*Command Sgt. Maj.
William Berries
CSM, U.S. Army
Garrison Grafenwoehr*



JACEY ECKHART

On the Homefront

Terri Barnes, who writes "Spouse Calls" for Stars and Stripes overseas (<http://blogs.stripes.com/blogs/spouse-calls>), asked me recently which issues in military life were being ignored in favor of stories about deployment. Terri and I talked about politically relevant stuff like geographic bachelors. The effect of PCS moves on kids. Spouse employment. We were so erudite I had to take an Imitrex and go lie down.

But this morning, I'm sitting by my pink peonies, sipping coffee from a blue and white china cup, and waiting for the mulch guy. I'm wondering why Terri and I hadn't tackled one of the most significant questions for military families: is your house juicy enough?

Yeah, that's what I'm calling a relevant issue: juicy houses. Talking about houses and military - unless you are talking tragic foreclosures or privatized housing scandals - makes it sound like I'm some kind of dysfunctional haus-

frau. Sounds like I'm insisting that we military spouses really must watch less "Dancing With the Stars" and more "Renovation Nation."

I don't mean that at all.

What I mean is that my husband deploys (that word again!) in the fall. What I mean is that I'm in my backyard counting exactly how many days I have before he starts the pipeline again. What I mean is that instead of my home being made home the moment he walks through the door at night, it will be just me and the boys again. These four walls. These maple trees. These peonies dying back into the ground. I know I'm going to need a really juicy house to get me through all that.

Which sounds so Splenda, I know. But it is true. Military folks need juicy houses to prop up their lives. Or that's what Maxwell Gillingham-Ryan told me. He is the founder of and author of Apartment Therapy. The guy is really into design (check his website www.ApartmentTherapy.com), but

Homes need to be 'juiced up'

that isn't what interested me about him. In the whole shelter mag world, Gillingham-Ryan seemed like one of the few who understood that the purpose of a house wasn't to impress people. How the house looked was important, but how the house worked was key.

"My clients find that the more they create healthy home rhythm, the more that supports their life," he said.

Military life can always use a little more support. So I asked Gillingham-Ryan what he meant by "healthy home rhythm." Marimbas? Bongos? Pickle buckets?

Not quite. Instead he was talking about rhythms that cost no money like nightly family dinners. Enforced bedtimes. Quiet. Organization. Cleanliness. Completed repairs. Rooms set up around the activities you want to accomplish there. Gillingham-Ryan called this a "juicy" home - one that is being used a lot.

So often our military life means that we live in a place like birds, as if we have alighted there; as if home was a swaying branch, a fluttering twig. We live as if we could shake a home off and build another elsewhere. And when our service member is deployed,



so often we avoid home, flitting away from empty rooms and empty chairs.

That may feel natural. But it isn't juicy. It doesn't fill us up. It isn't the life we military families deserve. I know that for Brad and I, this spring we need to pump up the juice of our family. This is the time we will indulge in the healthy rhythms of home. We will spend the weekend spreading all that mulch, I know. Brad is sure to do T-bones on the grill. I'll cut peonies for the table and we will sit on the deck talking long into the evening.

"Your home is your second

skin," says Gillingham-Ryan. "It's a place we can have small victories."

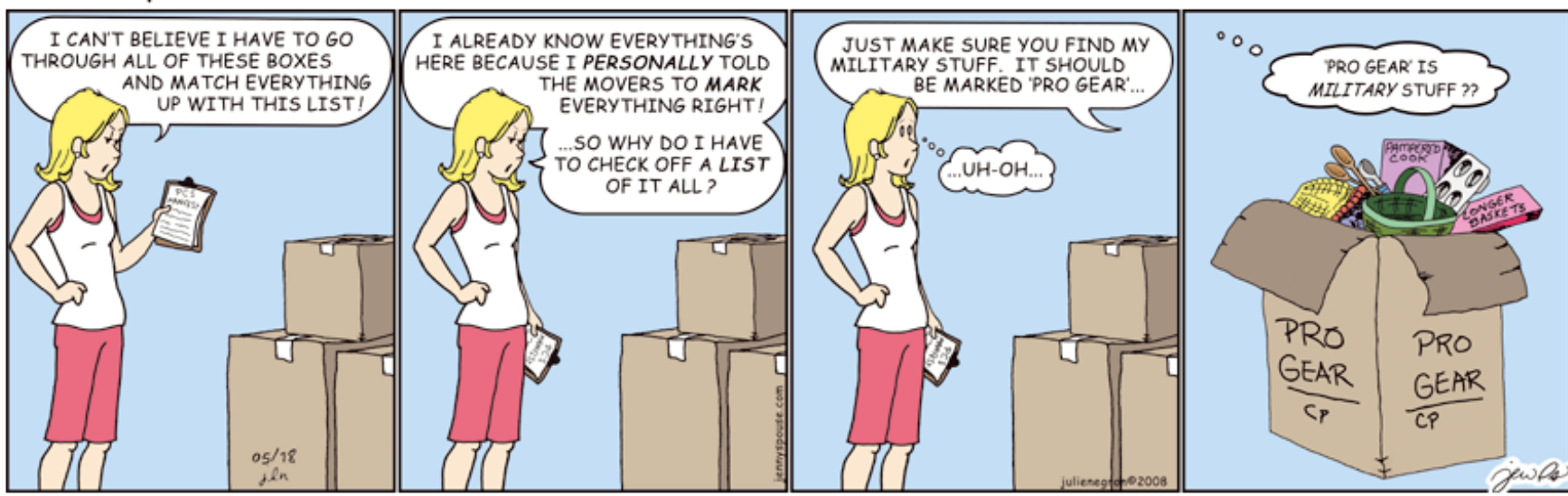
I know that. And so do you. Because those memories of small victories are the very things that keep our lives so sweet, even from far, far away.

Jacey Eckhart is a military/life consultant based in Washington DC. She is the author of *The Homefront Club: The Hardheaded Woman's Guide to Raising a Military Family* and the voice behind "These Boots." Check out more columns and her speaking schedule at www.jaceyeckhart.com. Write her at Jacey at jaceyeckhart.com



Cassie Unpacks

Copyright©2008 Julie L. Negrón, all rights reserved



Go home!

Visit the U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr Web page, www.grafenwoehr.army.mil, for up-to-date news, events, contact information and much more.

7TH U.S. ARMY JOINT MULTINATIONAL TRAINING COMMAND CELEBRATING A CENTURY OF TRAINING EXCELLENCE

Grafenwoehr Cultural and Military Museum offers a trip down memory lane

by Olaf Meiler, Special to the Bavarian News

Depending on your point of view there are many dates that one might say the Grafenwoehr Training Area (GTA) was "born." Most would agree that the first artillery shot at the training area in 1910 would be the best date to celebrate the training area's birthday, however, the training area had a history before that first shot was fired that morning June 30, and its development up to that point had several milestones to celebrate, albeit on a much smaller scale.

There was the naming of the Grafenwoehr Training Area (GTA) in 1906 by the Prince Regent of Bavaria Luitpold; then the groundbreaking and laying of cornerstones for the structures in 1907; and the arrival of the first soldiers and officers of the Bavarian 3rd Corps in 1908 and 1909. When one thinks of the development of the GTA, these events serve as a short "prehistory" in which the first shot into the impact area marks both an end and a beginning.

Imagine that the training area in its infancy is much like any child, getting larger and larger in great bounds. As it expands, its character and appearance takes form. Seeing it this way, the first shot on June 30 was the day the Grafenwoehr Training Area "grew up" and began to realize its full potential.

And yet the city of Grafenwoehr decided to welcome and celebrate the birthday of the GTA before the first shot, once the buildings and ranges began to take shape. The city hosted a grand celebration, April 1, 1908, the first of many between the fledgling GTA and the 500-year-old city, with banners,

flags, marching, speeches, music and no doubt much beer drinking and picnicking. Toasts were made to the soldiers and their gallant officers, and the Prince Regent, the "father" of the GTA, although not present, was honored as well.

The city was the first to celebrate the birth of the GTA two years before it would reach what we might call its true "coming of age" in June 1910. Once the first shot was fired it not only "stood up" that day, but continued walking – growing and developing at an astounding pace.

It adapted and changed, becoming strong and more refined, even if its nature and spirit remained the same: Train soldiers to win using the most modern tools and methods at hand to do so. And like many young people reaching for maturity, it was constantly learning and adjusting to improve as it became older and more sophisticated.

Today, it is impossible to speculate in what phase of development the "young" GTA we know has reached. Only the historians in 2110 or 2210 will be able to judge its maturity in retrospect. They'll certainly be able to write that today the GTA is in its prime, a multinational training area still expanding, still learning and still adapting to prepare Soldiers for today's conflicts that occur all over the globe.

The rich history of the GTA, with all its many and changing facets, is available for the public to explore at the Grafenwoehr Cultural and Military Museum, located on the Untere Torstrasse in downtown Grafenwoehr, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday, from 2 to 4 p.m.

EXPLORE THE MILITARY HISTORY OF THE GRAFENWOEHR TRAINING AREA
ONLINE AT WWW.HQJMTC.ARMY.MIL/GRAFENWOEHR100.HTML

Community invited to re-enactment ceremony



Above: The first shot fired at the Grafenwoehr Training Area (GTA) was made June 30, 1910, at 8 a.m. from a 15 cm field howitzer by a unit of Bavarian III Corps Artillery.

The first Grafenwoehr Commander, Gen. Oskar Menzel, was in attendance. The shot fell 800 meters short of its target, but was the beginning of a long military tradition of training at the Grafenwoehr Training Area.

Right: The typical period Bavarian III Corps Soldier on the ranges of the new Grafenwoehr Training Area in 1910.

Photos courtesy of Photo Spahn, Grafenwoehr



Busses will depart PX parking lot at 7 a.m. for ceremony

by Joint Multinational Training
Command Public Affairs

News Release

More than 100 years ago, June 30, 1910, Soldiers from the 2nd Royal Bavarian Foot Artillery Regiment fired the first round on the Grafenwoehr Training Area. To commemorate this occasion, the Joint Multinational Training Command will host a ceremony at Grafenwoehr's Range 114, June 30, at 7:45 a.m.

Witness German artillery crews in uniforms of the period, fire a vintage, 1910 howitzer on Range 114 to mark the event. U.S. artillery crews will follow-up by firing a Paladin down-range to honor continued partnership between the U.S. and German military. The event is part of a series of events, from June 30 to July 4, which celebrates 100 years of training Soldiers at the training area.

The community is invited to attend the ceremony. Busses will depart for the ceremony from the Grafenwoehr Post Exchange parking lot at 7 a.m. All interested personnel should arrive no later than 6:45 a.m. Seats are on a first-come, first-serve basis. The busses will only make one trip to and from the event.

In order to encourage public participation, no physical training barriers will be emplaced the morning that morning.

Personnel also may drive a government vehicle to observe the ceremony. Vehicles may only access the ceremony through Range 114. However, no vehicles will be authorized to enter the ceremony location after 7:30 a.m. Upon the completion of the ceremony, all busses and vehicles will be required to depart the range no later than 9 a.m.

For more information about the Joint Multinational Training Command or any events for the Grafenwoehr Training Area 100th Anniversary Celebration, visit www.hqjmtc.army.mil.

Overseas voters can submit ballots for state primaries

by Federal Voting Assistance Program

News Release

Register and request your ballot now! All members of the U.S. uniformed services, their family members and citizens residing outside the U.S. who are residents from these states and have not yet submitted a registration and ballot request (FPCA) for the 2010 calendar year, should do so as soon as possible.

The FPCA ballot application and instructions for the states below are available at www.fvap.gov/FPCA. Click on your state on the map and follow the instructions to register and request an absentee ballot. Some states allow submitting the FPCA by fax or email in addition to regular mail.

Send your FPCA now to your election office to ensure you have enough time to receive, vote and return the ballot.

For more information, visit FVAP at www.fvap.gov, call 1-800-438-8683, DSN (312) 425-1584, or email vote@fvap.gov. Toll-free phone numbers from 67 countries are listed at www.fvap.gov/contact/tollfreephone.html. Community feedback can make this even more helpful for the next election.

The following states will hold primary elections this summer on the dates indicated:

- June 22: Utah
- July 20: Georgia
- July 27: Oklahoma
- Aug. 3: Kansas, Michigan and Missouri
- Aug. 5: Tennessee
- Aug. 10: Colorado, Connecticut and Minnesota
- Aug. 17: Washington, Wyoming
- Aug. 24: Alaska, Arizona, Florida and Vermont
- Aug. 28: Louisiana (1st Party Congressional)

Visit the U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr Web page, www.grafenwoehr.army.mil, for up-to-date news, events, contact information and much more.

JMTC Soldiers honor World War II fallen



Brig. Gen. Steven Salazar, commanding general of the 7th Army, Joint Multinational Training Command, places a rose on the grave site of Staff Sgt. Gus Kefurt, a Medal of Honor recipient buried at the Epinal American Cemetery and Memorial in Epinal, France, May 30, as members of a French veterans organization look on.

Story and photos by
Sgt. Maj. Rodney Williams
7th U.S. Army JMTC Public Affairs

EPINAL, France – Soldiers of the Joint Multinational Training Command (JMTC) journeyed to France to take part in a memorial ceremony to honor and remember those who gave their lives for the cost of freedom. The ceremony took place at the Epinal American Cemetery and Memorial in Epinal, France, May 30.

“Today, we are here to commemorate those who fought and died in World War II to give us the freedom we enjoy today, and especially to honor those who rest in these beautiful grounds,” said Frederic Maerle, a representative from the U.S. Embassy in Paris. “These American graves are from nearly every division that fought for, and won, the liberation of France in World War II.”

The Epinal American Cemetery and Memorial is the final resting place for 5,255 American Soldiers, including four Medal of Honor recipients, who fought alongside French Allies during World War II campaigns in 1944 and 1945 to help liberate France from the threat of dictatorship.

“It was an historic link up of two great armies, allied armies,” said Brig. Gen. Steven Salazar, commanding general of the 7th Army JMTC during his memorial tribute. “It was a milestone that the troops of both armies recognized as placing them one step closer to victory and home. They remained steadfast and determined.”

The unity of French and American forces continues today according to Maerle. While serving as a diplomatic advisor at a U.S. military base in Djibouti from 2005 to 2006, he recalls American officers talking about the French response when the USS Cole was struck by a terrorist boat, killing 17 sailors and seriously injur-



Soldiers of the 7th Army, Joint Multinational Training Command (JMTC), the Honor Guard, and French Soldiers of the 1st Infantry Battalion (Mechanized) all render salute during the playing of the France and U.S. National Anthems during the memorial ceremony at the Epinal American Cemetery and Memorial in Epinal, France, May 30.

ing almost 40 others.

“Immediately after the attack, a U.S. Navy officer in Yemen telephoned his French counterpart across the channel in Djibouti asking that the French armed forces react in support of the U.S. Navy,” said Maerle. “Shortly after the call, the French army crossed the channel from Djibouti to Yemen and set up a combat field hospital. French army doctors saved many American Navy sailors’ lives.”

American and French Soldiers shared the field during the memorial ceremony just as they had during World War II. Shortly before the event began, a platoon of Soldiers from JMTC marched onto the field to take their position followed by a platoon of French soldiers belonging to the 1st Infantry Battalion (Mechanized), who are based in Epinal. The two platoons stood side-by-side as the honor guard settled between them with the national flags from both nations.

“Today, these same two great armies (U.S. and French) that met

near here in 1944 are working together to support coalition efforts in Afghanistan,” said Salazar. “Now, as then, again two great friends, along with a host of coalition nations serve alongside one another.”

Memorial Day is a day of remembrance, a day set aside to honor and remember those men and women who lost their lives serving the nation. It is important to reflect on the ultimate sacrifices that are made for freedom.

“What I hope is that everyone will come and commemorate Memorial Day,” said Tom Cavaness, the superintendent for the Epinal American Cemetery. “Hopefully they will walk away with a deeper and newer appreciation of what Memorial Day really stands for, which is to remember the sacrifices of the Soldiers who are buried here.”

“As we scan the markers that identify our fallen, we remember the words of President John F. Kennedy,” added Salazar. “A nation reveals itself not only by the men it produces, but also by the men it honors, the men in remembrance.”

21st TSC remembers fallen at Meuse-Argonne, France

Story and photo by
Sgt. Fay Conroy
21st TSC Public Affairs

ROMAGNE-SOUS-MONTFAUCON, France – Despite the gray skies and heavy rain, Soldiers from the 21st Theater Sustainment Command’s Special Troops Battalion traveled to the Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery and Memorial, May 30, to take part in a Memorial Day ceremony here.

The 21st Special Troops Battalion provided a ceremonial firing detail, an honor platoon and a color guard for the ceremony.

Located near the village of Romagne-sous-Montfaucon, the cemetery is the final resting place for 14,246 Soldiers, most of whom lost their lives during the Meuse-Argonne offensive of World War I. The cemetery has the largest number of American military dead in Europe and covers more than 130 acres.

“Here, at Meuse-Argonne, every headstone and memorial plaque testifies to the enormous sacrifices our nations have paid in the defense of these values more than 90 years ago,” said Maj. Gen. Patricia E. McQuiston, the commanding general of the 21st TSC, who gave the memorial address at the ceremony.

“As an American and a Soldier, I am indebted to all who came here today and any day of the year to pay tribute to those who have given their lives for the ideals and values we cherish,”



Maj. Gen. Patricia McQuiston, commanding general of the 21st Theater Sustainment Command, along with several French military officials and civilian dignitaries, renders honors after laying a wreath at a memorial ceremony held at the Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery and Memorial near Romagne-sous-Montfaucon, France, May 30.

she said.

The ceremony concluded with a wreath lay-

ing ceremony, the playing of taps and a ceremonial volley of rounds from the firing detail.

“It was overwhelming, especially in the beginning,” said Spc. Shannelle Santiago, a postal clerk with Human Resources Sustainment Center-Europe, 21st TSC. “When they started playing taps, that’s when it registered that these Soldiers did give their lives and that they still have family members out there who are still mourning them even though they can’t be here today to celebrate Memorial Day with them.”

For Sgt. 1st Class Darrell Cornelius, the 21st STB training noncommissioned officer in charge, the ability to celebrate Memorial Day in the presence of so many fallen Soldiers was one he said he will not forget.

“It was absolutely breathtaking. I really felt like I was on sacred ground,” he said of his first trip to the cemetery three weeks before the ceremony. “It really felt special to be a part of this whole event.”

After the ceremony, the 21st TSC Soldiers marched into town accompanied by a formation of French soldiers who also took part in the event. French citizens waving American and French flags lined the parade route to cheer the troops. A reception was held at the end of the parade route to thank the participants.

The Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery and Memorial is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. year round, except Jan. 1 and Dec. 25. More information can be found at the Meuse-Argonne’s official site at www.abmc.gov/cemeteries/cemeteries/ma.php.

NCO conference strengthens ties between European partners

Story and photo by
Sgt. Daniel J. Nichols
U.S. Army Europe Public Affairs

GARDEREN, The Netherlands – A great opportunity that promotes change for the better. That seemed to be the common assessment among the 35 senior enlisted leaders who participated in the Conference of European Armies for Noncommissioned Officers, here, May 9-12. This year’s conference, sponsored by U.S. Army Europe and hosted by the Dutch armed forces, was the fourth such annual gathering of top NCOs from across Europe and North America.

Most of the CEANCO participants are the highest-ranking enlisted leaders in their nations’ forces, equivalent in rank to the U.S. sergeant major of the Army. The conference is designed to bring those senior enlisted leaders together in one place at one time, as NCOs, to help strengthen partnerships and facilitate se-

curity cooperation, said interim USAREUR Command Sgt. Maj. Roger Blackwood.

“It’s where we can share ideas, thoughts, the way of doing things ... (the conference) gives us that great opportunity to come together in one room and specifically focus on the betterment of our noncommissioned officer corps within our armies,” Blackwood said.

This year’s conference focused on the theme “Train the Trainer” and ways of improving trainers and training methods. But while making training better and more collaborative was at the heart of the conference agenda, it wasn’t the only benefit of the event.

Most nations represented at the conference are coalition partners in Operation Iraqi Freedom and the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan, and many of the senior leaders who attended said they feel CEANCO has a positive impact on operations in those and other battlefields.

“It helps initially to get everyone together, to get everyone talking ... communication is the best part and the essential part of coalition forces,” said Warrant Officer Class 2 Tony Gordon, the British Armed Forces’ deputy liaison to USAREUR. “If we’re going to work together we need to talk to each other, and this is a perfect platform to communicate and talk to each other.”

“This world is small, and we’re all together now,” said Blackwood. “Nobody is standing alone. And as you can see, throughout our world and in Afghanistan, in Iraq, it takes the coalition that has formed and that continues to build, because in the future this is the way it’s going to be done – together.”

Discussions during the conference centered on improving training and combined operations, as well as looking at ways to develop the participating countries’ NCO Corps.

“I think that not only in the Dutch army, but in most armies, NCOs are the guys that make things work,” said Royal

See CONFERENCE, page 24

Call center opens with centralized phone number

Beneficiaries to see health care improvements at ERM

by Europe Regional Medical Command Public Affairs
News Release

HEIDELBERG, Germany – A \$700,000 ERM Care Call Center officially opened here recently to provide centralized telephone appointments for routine medical appointments at Army health facilities throughout Europe.

ERM Chief of Staff Col. Karen Kelley and Heidelberg Medical Activity Department Commander Col. Paula Underwood cut the ribbon during a brief ceremony attended by call center staff and ERM and HMEDDAC employees.

“This is a great Access to Care improvement,” said Kelley. “By deploying state of the art telephone equipment and software, and expanding hours and staff, we can serve our beneficiaries much better.”

She said the ERM Care Call Center, coupled with Tricare Online, gives beneficiaries 24-hour access to medical appointments. Tricare Online appointments are available at www.tricareonline.com.

The call center is managed and staffed by Heidelberg Medical Department Activity employees.

“We are pleased to support this Army Medical Command and ERM initiative to improve Access to Care,” said Underwood. “The goal is to make more routine appointments available and to reduce telephone wait times.”

An expanded call center staff now takes routine appointment requests from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding training or federal holidays. Beneficiaries may call 0800-ERM CARES, or 0800-376-2273.

The call center currently serves the Coleman, Katterbach, Illesheim, Mannheim and Heidelberg Health Clinics.



Photo by Steve Davis

Central Appointment clerk Sharon Woolgar takes routine appointment calls at the Europe Regional Medical Center Care Call Center.

By October 2010, the ERM Care Call Center will serve as the primary booking agency for all ERM medical treatment facilities.

Opening the new ERM Care Call Center is one of numerous Access to Care initiatives begun by the Europe Regional Medical Command during the past two years.

“Caring for Wounded Warriors, Access-to-Care improvements and medical facility upgrades have been among our priorities,” said ERM Commanding General Brig. Gen. Keith W. Gallagher. “The Army Medicine commitment of ‘Bringing Value ... Inspiring Trust’ and

ERM values of compassion, attitude, responsiveness, ethos and safety have guided us, and they shall continue to be our beacon.”

Among other ERM Access to Care initiatives are:

■ A Warrior Transition office for policy and planning, a Warrior Transition Battalion for oversight and four geographically dispersed Warrior Transition Battalion to care for our Wounded Warriors were established. The goal is to help Soldiers heal and return to duty or help them effectively transition with dignity back to civilian life.

Strength in Diversity

Former Cuban refugee finds freedom in Army

by Sgt. Jerry Wilson
2SCR Public Affairs

Nicknamed “Grandpa” by his fellow comrades, 42-year-old Pfc. Nielsy Bernal of 3rd Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment, is a quiet man with a very unique past. Born and raised in Havana, Cuba, Bernal was one of many to brave perilous seas in order to find freedom in the United States.

“My mom and dad always raised me to be against communism,” Bernal said. “My dad helped Castro until he turned communist and put my dad in prison.”

It was Bernal’s mother who encouraged her 18-year-old son to flee his homeland in search of a better life.

While completing his mandatory service in the Cuban Army, Bernal’s mom was informed her son was being sent to Angola. Upon hearing about the horrors being committed there, she visited Bernal during basic training.

“My mom told me to do whatever I had to and get out,” he explained. “I got into a fight with a superior and was put into a boot-camp style detention.”

While in detention, Bernal managed to escape and left Cuba in a raft with some friends. Unfortunately, Bernal and his friends encountered a storm and were caught and returned to Cuba. Bernal was then sentenced to two years in prison for his attempt to leave the country. He was later released in 11 months for good behavior.

“When I got out my dad asked me what I was going to do now,” he said. “I told him I was going to build another raft; 1989 was my first try and until 1994 I was making a raft every year trying to escape.”

According to Bernal his final attempt to reach the United States occurred in 1994 when Castro allowed Cubans dissenters to leave.

“At that time I already had a big raft made,” he said. “We took an old water pump from Russia and made an engine and we were 42 miles away from Cuba in six hours.”

Bernal and his shipmates were rescued by the U.S. Coast Guard and taken to a refugee camp at Guantanamo Bay. It was there he got his first look at the U.S. military.



Nielsy Bernal of 3rd Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment, says the Army has provided him the opportunity to serve the country which has given him so much.

“I spent 11 months there working at the MWR Marina with the Marines painting murals,” he said. “I really had a good time.”

At the age of 26, Bernal was cleared to enter the United States and married his wife of 16 years in Miami, Fla. Bernal and his wife finally settled in Arizona where he got a job working as a press operator.

While living in Arizona, Bernal became an American citizen, bought a home and began raising a family.

When the economy took a turn for the worse, Bernal was forced to look for a new career path, but he wanted more than just a job.

“I would rather be doing something that inspires and challenges me,” he said, “rather than just the routine of a job.”

A friend suggested he join the military and Bernal jumped at the chance. He continually excels in all the tasks assigned to him and is a constant inspiration to those who serve with him.

“The United States has done a lot for me,” he said. “I became a citizen; I am raising my children in freedom. For me, the Army is an opportunity to serve the country which has given me so much.”

‘Theater family’ bolsters Dye

by Sgt. Jerry Wilson
2SCR Public Affairs

Jessi Dye, wife of Sgt. Matt Dye of 2nd Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment, is no stranger to the long separations caused by deployments. For Dye, 2SCR’s upcoming mission to Afghanistan will be the fourth time she and her two daughters have said goodbye to their Soldier.

Growing up a self-proclaimed Air Force brat, this girl from Roy, Utah, said the best way to describe her life is different.

“It is different than all of my friend’s lives, other than those I have here,” she said. “None of them have to go through what I have to go through.”

Dye admits growing up in a military family has helped her cope with the separations, but still finds it difficult at times.

“I talk to some of my friends back home and they say ‘I don’t know how you do it,’” Dye said. “They could never let their husbands go away for a year, and then come back for a year, then go away again. That alone is probably the hardest part about being a military spouse.”

Dye has found a rather unique way to pass the time while waiting for her husband’s return; Dye is a thespian trapped in the body of an Army wife.

When she is not caring for her two daughters Kairi, 5, and Briana, 3, Dye spends most of her time feeding her great love for theater by volunteering at the Grafenwoehr Performing Arts Center. Dye has been working with the performing arts center since its inception and has logged about 1,200 volunteer hours to date.

When she is not acting on stage, Dye can be found behind the scenes operating lighting equipment, stage managing, costuming, choreographing and helping out in all aspects of production. Dye will soon be making her directorial debut with the upcoming Dinner theater production “Murder Medium Rare.”

“(The theater) is my home away from home,” Dye said. She said she finds support in her “theater family.”

“All of my friends over here, I have met through the theater,” she said. “My family over here is the theater.”

Dye admits she gets a lot from volunteering her time at the center.

“Theater is a stress relief for me,” she said. “It seems like it would be stressful but it’s a good kind of stressful,” she said. “I guess you could call it stressful therapy.”

Dye’s volunteering is not relegated to the theater



Photo by Trecia A. Wilson

Jessi Dye, left, and Joline Powell leaves the audience in stitches with their characters of Muffy and Buffy, in their skit Divas at the movies during a recent Improvisational comedy show called “Life Unscripted.”

alone. She also uses her talents to teach music classes at the Child Development Center.

In addition, she is a member of the German-American Kontakt Klub Choir. As a member of the choir, Dye has performed at various events throughout Germany including weddings, advent markets and several concerts. Dye also sang both the German and American national anthems at the 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment deployment ceremony, May 12.

Dye said she volunteers her time to give back to the Soldiers for all they do.

“It is important for us to show them we appreciate all they do,” she said. “I also enjoy being able to help provide the community a different form of entertainment other than the movies.”

Visit the U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr Web page, www.grafenwoehr.army.mil, for up-to-date news, events, contact information and much more.

NCOERs require attention to detail

Raters and reviewers should know steps for completion of NCO Evaluation Reports

by **Sgt. 1st Class Eurika D. Beaty**

*U.S. Army Europe
Office of the Inspector General*

Whether a person is due an annual, change of rater, change of duty or any other type of evaluation, a number of steps need to occur in a specific order for the evaluation to be considered complete. This article will briefly discuss the following areas: counseling, order of signatures, missing signature of the rated NCO, understanding what the rated NCO signature verifies, and the responsibility of the reviewer.

All rated subordinates are required to be counseled. These developmental counseling sessions will be recorded on a DA 2166-8-1,

with the initial counseling occurring within 30 days after the beginning of the rating period. The purpose of the initial counseling session is for the rater to show the rated NCO their rating chain, complete duty description, discuss the meaning of the values and responsibilities contained on the NCOER, and to explain the standards for success.

Prior the rated NCO's departure, the rater will record all key points discussed and obtain the rated NCO initials on the DA 2166-8-1. Additional counseling sessions will be conducted at least quarterly. The rater updates the duty description based on observed action and demonstrated behavior results. He or she will discuss the rated NCO's successes and areas for improvement.

At the end of every counseling session, the rater will discuss key points and rated NCO will acknowledge with his or her initials. These follow-on counseling sessions will focus on telling the rated NCO how well he or she is performing. Although not re-

quired, some unit command policies will require monthly counseling for NCOs. Monthly counseling sessions are also a useful tool to identify significant performances. The quarterly counseling dates will be annotated on the final NCOER for processing. If counseling dates are omitted, meaning no counseling has been conducted, the dates on the NCOER will be left blank. If this occurs, the senior rater will enter a statement in part V(e) of the completed NCOER explaining why counseling was not accomplished.

Prior to completing the evaluation, the form must be signed. The completed NCOER may be signed and dated by each individual in the rating chain up to 14 days prior to the "thru" date. The NCOER cannot be forwarded to Headquarters, Depart-

ment of the Army until the through date. The NCOER must be signed in order of rating chain officials (i.e. rater, senior rater, reviewer and the rated NCO, who is the last to sign).

A common misconception is that the rated NCOs signature does not constitute agreement or disagreement with the individual's evaluation. If the rated NCO is unavailable, unable or fails to sign the completed NCOER for any reason, the senior rater must either resolve the problem or explain the reason in part V (e) of the completed NCOER and the rated NCO signature block will be left blank.

It is important to note that an evaluation will not be delayed because it lacks the rated NCO's signature. One may ask himself, what does the signature verify? The signature verifies several things; specifically, it validates the administrative data in part 1, the rating officials are proper, the duty description is accurate, counseling dates are accurate, APFT, height, weight entries are correct and that the rated NCO is aware of the appeal process.

Lastly, it is the reviewer's responsibility to ensure the NCOER is submitted in a timely manner and is accurate. He or she will ensure the evaluation is clear, consistent and just. If the reviewer does not concur with the rater and or senior rater, the reviewer will mark the appropriate box as such and submit a mandatory enclosure (not to exceed one page). This enclosure clarifies the situation and renders the reviewers opinion regarding the rated NCO's performance and potential. The reviewer may not direct that the rater and or the senior rater change an evaluation believed to be honest.

For additional information pertaining to NCOERS, refer to AR 623-3 and DA PAM 623-3. To obtain a better understanding for every area of DA Form 2166-8 and for proper wording for specific bullets while writing an NCOER, refer to DA PAM 623-3.

Editor's Note: Sgt. 1st Class Eurika D. Beaty is an assistant inspector general at the U.S. Army Europe Office of the Inspector General.

Inspector General advocates for all

by **Maj. Martin Caban**

*U.S. Army Europe
Office of the Inspector General*

The IG inquires into, and reports on, the discipline, efficiency, economy, morale, training and readiness throughout the Army. Many uncertainties exist when contemplating what IGs do and what they don't. The IG is neither an advocate for the command nor for the Soldier — the IG advocates for both. The IG's cornerstone is maintaining objectivity. The IG serves as a confidential and impartial means for personnel to raise concerns, report violations of service regulations or standards, or anything detrimental to the good order and discipline of the unit/organization.

Army Regulation 20-1, Inspector General Activities and Procedures, explicitly prescribes the duties and responsibilities of Inspectors General. The IG executes four functions: inspections, assistance, investigations, and intertwining all, is teaching and training. IGs do not make command policy, recommend adverse personnel actions, or do anything that may jeopardize their ability to function as fair and impartial fact-finders.

The Assistance function is the process of

receiving, inquiring into, and responding to complaints, requests for information, or assistance presented to an IG. IGs correct problems by bringing the matter to the attention of the chain of command and letting them act accordingly. Assistance is provided to all Soldiers, DA civilians, family members, and other personnel presenting matters of Army interest to the command. Commanders should be aware that preventing communication with an IG, taking reprisal actions against an individual who has gone to an IG, or making false official statements to an IG are all violations of punitive regulations. IG interaction occurs at the lowest level of command appropriate to take the corrective action and is only elevated when deemed appropriate.

There are two types of IG investigations, informal and formal. An investigative inquiry is an informal fact-finding process used by Inspectors General to gather information needed to address allegations of impropriety. The formal investigation normally addresses allegations of wrongdoing by an individual and is authorized by written directive. It involves the systematic collection and examination of testimony and documents, and may include physical evidence. Inspections are covered by AR 1-201, Army

Inspection Policy, which defines an inspection as "an evaluation to determine compliance against established standards." IG inspections should not be confused with Command or Staff inspections. IG inspections focus on systemic issues that affect many units as opposed to unit-oriented inspections which tend to focus on the single unit. IG Inspections seek out the root cause of problems and assign responsibility to individuals or agencies to provide solutions.

Teaching and training is embedded throughout all of the functions discussed above. IGs provide guidance and information about Army systems, processes, and procedures facilitating corrective actions.

Anyone, regardless of status, has the right to request information or assistance and file a complaint or allegation to any Office of the Inspector General. Requests can be made in person, over the telephone, by email, or fax. Walk-ins are welcomed, but appointments are encouraged.

For more information, refer to AR 20-1, or call the USAREUR IG Hot Line at DSN 370-5555, CIV at 06221-57-5555.

Editor's Note: Maj. Martin Caban is the detailed inspector general for the U.S. Army Europe Office of the Inspector General.

Customs shipping information is now available online

by **Robert Szostek**

*USEUCOM Customs
Public Affairs*

MANNHEIM, GERMANY- U.S. personnel overseas can find facts about shipping vehicles to the United States on the Internet. The listed links are on the Military Customs Web site at www.hqusa-reur.army.mil/opm/cars.htm.

The U.S. Bureau of Customs and Border Protection offers tips on converting foreign vehicles to U.S. emission and safety standards, washing requirements to prevent spreading bugs and diseases stateside and tells you how to import a vehicle without paying duty.

For people with vehicles not built to U.S. safety specifications, the site has links to the latest list of registered importers that can do U.S. safety conversions, the list of models that can be converted, details on importing Canadian standard vehicles, and the HS-7 Declaration Form required for vehicle imports.

The Environmental Protection Agency also has a



Courtesy photo

Soldiers who are PCSing and want to make themselves familiar with customs procedures can now access the information online.

link listing the Automotive Imports Facts Manual, Independent Commercial Importer List, a "What's New?" section, Approved Canadian Vehicles and the EPA 3520-1 Declaration Form.

The Department of Agriculture link explains why high

standards of cleanliness are necessary for vehicles shipped stateside.

More customs information is available at the Military Customs Online page at www.hqusa-reur.army.mil/opm/us-customs.htm or by calling any local military customs office.

Customs offices hours and locations

Garmisch

Bldg. 209 MP Station
DSN: 440-3601,
CIV: 08821-750-3601
Tue – Fri.
1–4 p.m.
Closed German holidays

Grafenwoehr

Bldg. 621, Room 102
DSN:475-7249,
CIV: 09641-83-7249
Mon – Fri
9 a.m.–noon, 1–3 p.m.
Closed U.S. holidays

Hohenfels

Bldg. 10, Room 118
Phone: DSN: 466-2012,
CIV: 09472-83-2012
Mon – Fri
8 a.m.–noon, 1– 4 p.m.
Closed U.S. holidays

Schweinfurt

Bldg.64 on Conn Barracks
Phone: DSN: 353-8847/8846,
CIV: 09721-96-8847/8846
Mon – Fri
8 a.m.–noon, 12:30–3:30 p.m.
Closed German and U.S. holidays

Spotlight on Education



Name: Michelle Sizemore

What grade and subject do you teach? Kindergarten.

Hometown: Birmingham, Ala.

What grade and subject(s) do you teach? Third grade.

How long have you been a teacher? 11 years.

What do you enjoy most about teaching?

I enjoy seeing the "light bulb" go on inside a student. That is a great teacher moment!

What advice can you give students to help them succeed?

Don't be afraid to imagine. It's alright to create a mental picture, filling in and altering the details as you go. Continue to look forward, steadily building, but never look back.

Go Home !

Visit the U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr Web page, www.grafenwoehr.army.mil, for up-to-date news, events, contact information and much more.

Out of the fire 'Grillmeisters' should put safety on top

by Sam Reynolds

U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center

Summer outdoor dining is as popular as ever. From fun-filled family picnics to romantic dinners for two, many fond summer memories find roots in afternoons and evenings around a picnic table or grill.

To make this summer's outdoor dining memories happy ones and not ones full of pain or trips to the emergency room, it is important to plan and use common sense before the first piece of charcoal is lit or the first hamburger hits the grill.

Good grilling

With more Americans lighting their grills than ever before, it is important to remember that a fun barbecue is a safe barbecue. Statistics released by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) indicate that gas and charcoal grills caused an average of 3,400 structure fires and 4,900 outdoor fires in or on home properties in 2005. These fires resulted in a combined direct property loss of \$137 million.

Anytime you work with fire, there's a chance of getting burned. Common sense and planning will help prevent injuries and tips, like those listed below, will help keep everyone safe this summer.

Read the owner's manual. Always read the owner's manual before using your grill and follow specific usage, assembly and safety procedures. Contact the grill manufacturer if you have specific questions. Be sure to locate your model number and the manufacturer's consumer inquiry phone number and write them on the front page of your manual.

Grills are for outdoor only. Barbecue grills are designed for outdoor use only. Never barbecue in your trailer, tent, house, garage or any enclosed area because carbon monoxide may accumulate and kill you.

Use in well-ventilated areas. Set up your grill in an open area that is away from buildings, overhead combustible surfaces, dry leaves or brush. Be sure to avoid high traffic areas and always barbecue in a well-ventilated area. Be aware of wind-blown sparks.

Keep grill stable. When using a barbecue grill, be sure that all parts of the unit are firmly in place and that the grill is stable and can't be tipped over.

Follow electric codes. If electrically-operated accessories like rotisseries are used, be sure they are properly grounded in accordance with local codes. Electrical cords should be placed away from walkways or anywhere people can trip over them.

Use long-handled utensils. Use barbecue utensils with long handles (forks, tongs) to avoid burns and splatters.

Wear safe clothing. Wear clothing that does not have hanging shirt tails, frills or apron strings that can catch fire, and use flame-retardant mitts when adjusting hot vents.

Keep fire under control. To put out flare-ups, either raise the grid that the food is on, spread the coals out evenly, or adjust the controls to lower the temperature. If you must douse the flames with a light spray of water, first remove the food from the grill.

Be ready to extinguish flames. Use baking soda to control a grease fire and have a fire extinguisher ready. A bucket of sand or a garden hose should be near if you don't have a commercial extinguisher.

Consider placing a grill pad or splatter mat beneath your grill. These naturally heat-resistant pads are usually made of lightweight composite cement or plastic and will protect your deck or patio from any grease that misses the drip pan.

Never leave a grill unattended once lit.

Don't allow anyone to conduct activity near the grill when in use or immediately following its use. The grill body remains hot up to an hour after being used. Also, never attempt to move a hot grill. It's easy to stumble or drop it and serious burns could result.

Food safety

Summertime is the season for cookouts, picnics and grilling outside. When you're cooking outdoors, it's more important than ever to keep your food preparation area clean and sanitary, especially when it's hot outside. Below is a list of tips to help avoid food poisoning at your

summer cookouts.

Avoid cross-contamination.

Cross-contamination occurs when bacteria from one food item are transferred to another food item, often by way of unwashed cutting boards or countertops, as well as knives and other kitchen tools, or even unwashed hands. For example, cross-contamination could occur if a cook were to cut raw chicken on a cutting board and then later slice fresh tomatoes on the same board without washing it first.

Clean everything.

Bacteria can spread throughout the kitchen and get onto hands, cutting boards, knives, dish cloths, sponges and counter tops. Clean frequently and thoroughly.

Always wash your hands with soap before preparing or serving food and after handling raw meat, poultry and seafood; using the washroom or changing diapers; sneezing/coughing; handling garbage; or touching pets.

Wash cutting boards, knives, utensils and counter tops with hot soapy water after preparing each food item and before going to the next one.

Add an extra cleaning step with surfaces. Wipe them using 1/2 teaspoon of household bleach in one liter of water.

Dish cloths can be an ideal environment for bacteria to grow and multiply. Change dish cloths often and machine wash them in hot water. Consider using paper towels to clean up kitchen surfaces.

Separate raw from cooked.

Bacteria can easily spread from raw foods to cooked foods. This is called cross-contamination. When preparing raw meat, poultry and seafood make sure you keep these foods and their juices away from ready-to-eat foods.

Keep raw meat, poultry and seafood away from other food in your grocery cart and bags. Use the clear plastic bags provided at the meat counter.

Store raw meat, poultry and seafood on the bottom shelf of the refrigerator on a plate so juices don't drip onto other foods.

Use one cutting board for raw meat, poultry or seafood, and another for foods that are ready-to-eat, such as salads and fruit. Always wash cutting boards, knives and other

utensils with hot soapy water after they come in contact with raw meat, poultry or seafood.

Never place cooked food on a plate that held uncooked meat, poultry or seafood.

Cook thoroughly.

Foods are properly cooked when they are heated for a long enough time and at a high enough temperature to kill the harmful bacteria that cause food-borne illness.

Use a meat thermometer to measure the internal temperature of cooked meat and poultry to make sure that the meat is cooked all the way through. See cooking temperature chart.

If you don't use a meat thermometer, cook until juices run clear (no blood).

Cook ground meat, such as hamburger, thoroughly. Bacteria can spread during the grinding process and may cause serious illness unless destroyed by cooking. Do not eat ground beef that is pink inside. If it's grey, it's safe.

Keep it cold.

Cold temperatures of 4°C/40°F or below slow down the growth of micro-organisms. Use a refrigerator thermometer to check that your refrigerator temperature is 4°C/40°F or below and your freezer temperature is -18°C/0°F.

Refrigerator thermometers are available in hardware stores. Keeping food cold is one of the best ways to reduce the risk of food-borne illness.

Do not over-stuff the refrigerator. Cold air must be able to circulate to keep food safe.

Never defrost food at room temperature. Thaw food in the refrigerator. For a quick thaw, place the food item in an airtight package and put in cold water. Another option is to thaw in the microwave if cooking immediately.

Always marinate foods in the refrigerator.

Refrigerate or freeze perishables, prepared foods and leftovers within two hours of purchase or use.

Separate large amounts of leftovers into small, shallow containers for quicker cooling in the refrigerator.

And lastly, if you are consuming alcoholic beverages, be sure to drink them away from the flames and remember drinking impairs your judgment and increases your risk of injury.

Officials encourage boaters to don life vests this summer

by Mollie Miller

U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center

A life preserver will preserve no life if it is stuffed into a compartment on a boat, slung across the back of a seat or sitting at the bottom of a pile of fishing equipment.

This is a fact and it is a fact that thousands of boaters, water skiers and fishermen around the country have learned following the drowning death or serious injury of a friend or family member.

The U.S. Coast Guard reports that in 2008, there were 4,789 boating accidents that resulted in 709 deaths and 3,331 injuries. More than two-thirds of boating accident fatalities drowned and, of those people, 90 percent were not wearing life jackets.

The Army team has also seen its share of accidents where a life preserver may have helped a Soldier avoid a fatal injury. In 2009, two Soldiers drowned in separate boating accidents, one while river rafting and the other on a fishing trip. Neither Soldier was wearing a life preserver.

With boating-related drowning accidents continuing to log preventable fatalities, both within the Army and nationwide, officials are encouraging everyone to snap into a life preserver before setting out on any water adventure this summer.

"There is simply no good reason not to wear a life preserver while out in a boat," said Richard Smith, Safety Specialist at the U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center. "Having one in the boat is just not enough; you have to put it on."

Smith said he has heard many reasons why people don't wear life preservers like how they are too bulky or will "mess up tan lines" but none of these excuses are really valid anymore thanks to a booming life jacket industry.

"These aren't your grandfather's giant orange life jackets anymore," he said. "These days, life jackets come in all shapes, sizes and colors to fit every style

and water activity and there is no reason not to wear one."

Although vital to a safe boating experience, snapping or buckling into a life jacket is just one piece of staying safe out on the water during summer fun. John Clancy, Outdoor Recreation program manager at Fort Rucker, Ala., said well maintained equipment, training and proper planning all contribute to a good day on the water.

"While boating is a fun experience, remember that it comes with responsibilities, too," he said. "In order to have a fun and memorable trip on the water you need to be safe and you do this by being prepared for anything that could happen."

The U.S. Coast Guard reports that there are five common factors that contribute too many boating accidents every year. These factors include inattention, reckless operation, passenger/skier behavior, operator inexperience and the lack of a proper lookout. Alcohol use has also been cited as a contributing factor in many recent accidents.

Managing these risk factors is easy, according to Clancy, as long as boaters follow a few simple rules – check it, follow it, pack it.

"The biggest mistake people make is to assume they already know everything about their boat without ever reading the manual," he said. "The manuals address many of the common mistakes and a quick read will save boaters time and frustration down the road."

At the beginning of every boating season, all boats should be checked thoroughly from bow to stern. The Coast Guard Auxiliary offers free vessel safety checks. To find the closest inspector, visit www.vesselsafetycheck.org.

An initial inspection is not enough, however. Clancy said a five-point check that includes inspecting the engines, navigational equipment, communication devices, lights and safety equipment as well as a weather report should be completed

every time a boat leaves the dock.

"Performing the five-point check and getting good a weather report can be difference between having a good day on the water or a bad night stuck waiting for help," he said.

All boats should also have some sort of emergency kit on board at all times, according to Scott. These kits should contain at least a first aid kit and a whistle or horn to use as a distress signal.

Other equipment that should be readily available on most boats include a towline, emergency radio, bailing device, fire extinguisher, flashlight, extra batteries, matches, a map of where you are, flares, sun screen and a paddle.

The final piece of the safe boating equation focuses on following rules. Like drivers, boaters must follow rules to keep them and those around them safe. Officials at the National Safe Boating Council said knowing the "nautical rules of the road" is an important part of every safe boat trip.

"Boating can be more dangerous than driving a car, no matter how long you plan to be out on the water," Clancy said. "In order to avoid some of the more common problems it is important to follow rules."

Following an established float plan is also vital to a safe outing. A float plan outlines information like where the boaters are going and when they will be back. A copy of the plan should be left with a friend or family member who will be expecting the boat back at a certain time and can notify authorities if the boat does not return.

A sample float plan is available online at www.floatplancentral.org. More information about boating safety including checklists and tips is available at www.safeboatingcouncil.org or <http://rentalboatsafety.com>.

For additional information about summer risk management, visit the 2010 Safe Summer Campaign website at <https://safety.army.mil/summersafety>.

Hiking plan as important as proper equipment

by Mollie Miller

U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center

This summer, thousands will lace up their hiking boots, swing their packs on to their backs and hit nature trails around the country to experience the beauty of America's and Europe's great outdoors.

Whether a summer trip into the great outdoors is as short as a few hours or as long as a week, there are three steps every adventurer should take before their boots ever touch the trail, according to Tracey Russell, a Safety Specialist at the U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center.

"If you plan to hit the trails this summer, make a plan, pack a bag and bring a buddy," Russell said. "It takes a little time to get ready for a safe trip but the extra time now will save a lot of time later by avoiding illness, injury or loss."

Make a plan

The best way to prevent an accident while on a nature adventure is to simply stay out of trouble in the first place, according to the Boy Scouts of America Guide to Safe Scouting.

The Guide to Safe Scouting notes that staying out of trouble while out in the wild requires planning and a good understanding of the environment.

"Making a plan gets the hiker thinking about all the possible things that could happen during an outdoor adventure," Russell said.

A good hiking plan will include information like departure and return times, emergency phone numbers, the hike route, and locations and phone numbers for medical assistance, lodges and park rangers.

The plan should also include a list of equipment needed for the outdoor adventure. A good plan should also include information about current weather conditions and what to expect during the hike or campout.

If, in the planning process, a hiker or camper discovers that severe weather is forecasted for the area, reschedule the trip – bad weather can be a hiker's biggest enemy.

"You do not want to be caught in the forest in the middle of a lightning storm," Russell said.

Car seat installation critical

by Lt. Col. Gwendolyn Davis
and Maj. Rena Trumbull
Bavaria Medical Department Activity

Warning! Are you putting your friends and family at risk?

Did you know the most dangerous thing we do each day is get in our car and drive? It is such a routine and automatic activity of our lives that most of us just go through the motions. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, motor vehicle injuries are the leading cause of death among children in the United States.

In 2005, more than 1,400 child occupants died in motor vehicle crashes and nearly half were unrestrained. It is very disappointing to read about such statistics since many of these fatalities are preventable. Taking the extra 60 seconds to ensure you and your passengers are properly restrained is all it takes.

Unfortunately, many do not do this. Maybe you're simply driving two blocks to the commissary or returning a book to the library. You're only going down the road a bit. You're not even leaving the post. If this is how you rationalize not buckling up, then think again. Twenty-five percent of all crashes occur less than five minutes from the home.

Recently, a community car seat safety event was conducted at the Heidelberg Commissary. Of the 27 seats inspected, only three passed inspection. This means that 89 percent failed. These parents aren't bad parents intentionally seeking to harm their children; they just didn't have all of the education and latest information for proper use of car restraints.

One of the car seats inspected had just been



Photo by Kelli Bland

New father Dan Bland buckles his daughter, Marielle Bland, into her car seat. At a recent car seat safety event in Heidelberg, 89 percent of the car seats examined failed the safety check.

purchased at a local post exchange and was found to be on the recall list. Fortunately, the parents that participated in the event were not taking safety for granted and were willing to take the time to ensure their children and passengers were as safe as possible.

All 50 states have child restraint laws and most European countries have similar laws. Most require age- and size-appropriate restraints be used. For example, children ages 12

and under should be properly restrained in the back seat. What many people may not know is that 38 states and the District of Columbia upgraded their child restraint laws to require the use of booster seats or other appropriate child restraint devices for children up to nine years old. Unfortunately, many parents are noncompliant with this new law.

The good news is that motor vehicle injuries and fatalities are going down thanks to laws and education. The Bavaria Medical Department Activity recognizes the importance of education and has certified child passenger safety technicians available through the Army public and community health nurses at various Bavaria Medical Department Activity clinics. The Hohenfels, Illesheim, Katterbach, Vilseck and Grafenwoehr clinics have CPS technicians available free of charge.

The Bavaria Medical Department Activity will also provide car seat safety events this summer. There will be a car seat safety check, Wednesday, June 16, from 1 – 4 p.m., in Vilseck and Wednesday, June 23, from 1 – 4 p.m. in Grafenwoehr.

For more information and to schedule an appointment, contact the Vilseck Health Clinic at DSN 476-2165, CIV 09662-83-2165 or Grafenwoehr Health Clinic at DSN 475-7418, CIV 09641-83-7418.

For more specific information on car seat safety and laws governing it, visit www.safekids.org. This worldwide organization is devoted to preventing accidental injuries and offers a variety of information on safety.

Editor's Note: Lt. Col. Gwendolyn Davis and Maj. Rena Trumbull are Army public health nurses for the Bavaria Medical Department Activity.



Did you know that if you have a problem before, during or after your visit to an Army health clinic you can contact the patient advocate?

The patient advocate will assess the situation and ensure you get the care and treatment you deserve.

During the next few months, the Bavarian News will feature each of the 15 patient advocates in the Bavaria footprint.

To speak with a patient advocate directly, contact your local health clinic.

Illesheim Patient Advocates



Name:
Ashley Cobb

Clinic:
Katterbach/Illesheim
Social Work Service

Hometown:
Denton, Texas

Position at the clinic: Family Advocacy Technician

How long have you been there?
Since February 2009

What do you enjoy most about your job? I have fantastic co-workers and I am constantly learning from them. I also truly value working in a helping profession.

What is the one thing patients should know about their health care? They should know that seeking help, specifically in some form of counseling, is an admirable thing to do.

Why should patients come to see you? Patients should feel confident seeking services at Social Work Service for individual, family or marriage counseling.

Tell me something unique about yourself. I am fluent in Spanish.

• • • • •



Name:
Lindsay Truax

Clinic:
Illesheim Health
Clinic

Hometown:
Minnetrista, Minn.

Position at the clinic: Community Health Nurse

How long have you been there?
One and a half years.

What do you enjoy most about your job? Feeling like I am helping my patients feel more comfortable about their health care each time I see them.

What is the one thing patients should know about their health care? We are here for our patients at the Illesheim Health Clinic and want to make sure you leave feeling like you have had all your questions or concerns answered.

Why should patients come to see you? I care about each person I take care of and do everything within my ability to help them with their individual situation.

Tell me something unique about yourself? I like to run and have completed two marathons.

Army medicine ‘in great hands’

by Jerry Harben
U.S. Army Medical Command

Some 1,900 Army medical professionals heard from two senior Army leaders, May 20, during the Army Medical Symposium in San Antonio, Texas, hosted by U.S. Army Medical Command and the Association of the U.S. Army.

“I came to tell you thank you, because I find myself frustrated when people emphasize the negative instead of the positive,” said Lt. Gen. Rick Lynch, commander of U.S. Army Installation Management Command and the Army’s assistant chief of staff for installation management. “The things that are going great nobody talks about, but I want you to know that we (senior Army leaders) know about them.”

“All of you are bona fide heroes,” he added.

Gen. Carter Ham, commander of U.S. Army Europe and Seventh Army, echoed those thoughts.

“I have a lifelong love affair with Army medicine,” Ham said. “Army medicine is strong and I am confident we are in great hands for the future.”

Ham spoke of the importance of Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany, which not only supports the U.S. military population in

Europe, but also serves as first stop in the evacuation of casualties from Iraq and Afghanistan to the United States.

“The ability to house patients between the area of operations and (the continental United States) remains a vital link,” he said.

Ham also spoke of his role on two high-profile issues, the investigation of a shooting incident at Fort Hood, Texas, last November, and an ongoing study of the “Don’t Ask-Don’t Tell” policy regarding military service by homosexuals.

He said the main question regarding the Fort Hood incident is “How did this happen?” He noted that leadership involvement was one of the issues being examined.

Regarding Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell, Ham said the group studying homosexual service is gathering information from a variety of

sources. He noted the question being considered is not whether the policy should change, but how best to implement a change if one is legislated by Congress.

Lynch, who supervises all Army installations through his command employing some 120,000 people, spoke about the need to support resiliency of Soldiers and their families, and the need for synchronization of support efforts by various organizations.

“Our Soldiers are magnificent,” Lynch said, speaking of high reenlistment rates both in Iraq and at Fort Hood, Texas, when he commanded there.

“The Army won’t break because of our Soldiers, but the Army may break because of stress on our families,” he said. “All of us together can work to alleviate some of that stress.”

“Just because you deployed

“The Army won’t break because of our Soldiers, but the Army may break because of stress on our families.”

Lt. Gen. Rick Lynch,
Commander, U.S. Army IMCOM

Preventive measures keep tick bites at bay

by Catherine Gehrau
Katterbach Health Clinic

There’s no way around it, tick season is here. As a resident of Bavaria, there are three things you should know: how to prevent tick bites, how to remove a tick and what your options are in terms of vaccinations.

The first step to prevention is to know your enemy. Small but dangerous, ticks are the carriers of many diseases such as Tick-Borne Encephalitis, better known as FSME in Germany. Ironically, the tick itself is usually not infected with the virus. Instead, it transports the virus to humans and animals such as dogs. The peak periods for ticks are April to November.

To prevent getting a tick bite, cover your arms, legs and ankles and use insect repellent on exposed skin, socks and outer clothing. Also, pay attention to your environment. Walking through the woods or areas with heavy undergrowth, camping or working in forested areas are just some of the areas where a tick bite may occur. You should always examine your body and clothing for ticks after spending time in rural or forested areas. Ticks found should be



Ticks abound throughout Germany. Make sure you protect yourself and your pets this summer season.

removed as soon as possible.

If you’re bitten by a tick, it’s possible you could develop Tick-Borne Encephalitis. About two-thirds of the people who contract the virus experience a mild illness that may last up to a week. In the remaining third, the illness may progress to more serious illnesses such as inflammation of the brain or spinal cord. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Pre-

vention, there isn’t a specific antiviral treatment for Tick-Borne Encephalitis. However, there is a vaccine that can help prevent contracting the virus in the first place.

The vaccine is offered on the German economy – it is not available at your local Army health clinic – and is called the FSME immunization. However, it only protects against Tick-Borne Encephalitis. It does not protect against any other tick-borne diseases, such as Lyme disease. The immunization is an inactivated virus and basic immunization consists of three injections. The first two injections are given one to three months apart and the third injection is given nine to 12 months later.

The vaccine is available in Germany for adults and children who have completed their third birthday. In high endemic areas, the vaccine can be given to children as early as one year of age. Vaccine protection starts as early as 14 days after the second injection. This protection can last up to five years for people under the age of 60. For people more than 60 years old, protection lasts about three years.

What’s Happening

Grafenwoehr/Vilseck Briefs

Bulk Trash Pickup

Bulk trash pick-up for Gmuend and Huetten is June 14. Trash must be placed curbside near your home by 6 a.m.

Everything too big or heavy to go in normal refuse containers, such as: furniture, mattresses, carpets, washing machines, dryers, radios, TVs, ovens, stoves, bicycles, strollers, and other items which cannot be dismantled, torn or broken down to a size that would fit in the regular refuse container.

Single items should be no larger than 80x40x32 inches and weigh no more than 110 lb. Place metal items like bicycles, washers, dryers, stoves and electronic equipment (large appliances, small appliances, cooling devices, information & telecom including entertainment equipment) separately next to normal bulk trash.

Smaller electronic appliances (i.e. hairdryer, toothbrush, telephones, etc.) should be dropped off at the infrequent off post “circuit riding” poison wagon or in Weiherhammer. The poison wagon will be at the City Grafenwoehr “Staedische Bauhof” (Thumbachstr. 27) from 12:15 to 1:45 p.m. on Sep 16, or drop off at “Company Bergler” in Weiherhammer, Etzenrichter Str. 2, Mon-Fri. from 8 a.m.–4 p.m., CIV 09605-92090.

For more information call your SORT Office at DSN 475-6664

Back Pain Prevention Class

Do you suffer from chronic back pain? Are you sitting at a desk all day? This class will help you eliminate stiffness and soreness of the back with gentle exercises designed to strengthen and stretch the muscles.

Beginning June 22, classes will be held Tuesdays and Thursday, 5-6 p.m. at the Main Post Physical Fitness Center. Cost is \$40 for 8 sessions. POC: Garrison Sports Office at DSN 475-8207.

Free summer camp

Operation Purple Camp, July 11 -17, recognizes and celebrates “kids serve too.” This camp is free and open to 9-12 year olds with a deployed or deploying parent (or redeployed within 15 months of the camp).

OPC will be held in Lachenwald, Germany (between Ansbach and Illesheim). Parents are responsible for transportation costs. For more and to register, www.operation-purple.org.

ODR Mountain Bike Club

Join the ODR Mountain Bike Club for \$125 per person. Benefits include:

free Monday ride fare from April through Sept. Free season long bike maintenance of member’s personal bike (basic tune-up cost for nonmembers is \$25); Free maintenance classes covering brakes, gears, drive-train and lubrication.

Free trailside fixes on Monday rides (parts not included). *Additional bikes in member’s personal stable \$35 each added to benefits (maintenance).

Contact your local ODR at DSN 475-7402 or DSN 476-2563.

European Travel Fair

Your USAG Grafenwoehr Libraries are bringing together local travel experts from Leisure Travel Services and SATO to help you plan the perfect family get away this summer.

Join us on Thursday, June 10 from 5-6:30 p.m. at the Main Post Library or Tuesday, June 15 from 4:30 – 6 p.m. at the Rose Barracks Library for our European Travel Fair.

We’ll share travel tips, discuss passport requirements, provide information about upcoming trips, explain the travel services available on post, show you how to save big on train travel, plus give you a tour through all the travel resources available at the Library.

Participants can also register for a travel-related prize drawing. Pre-registration not required.

Summer Reading Program

Make plans now to participate in the 2010 Summer Reading Program ‘Voyage to Book Island.’

This year’s program will be filled with outrageous adventures, fun filled activities, and lots of great books. Join us each week during the six week program as we explore the themes of ‘Pirates & Princesses,’ ‘Fun Under the Sea,’ ‘Island Explorers,’ ‘Luau,’ ‘Beach Party,’ and ‘Shipwreck!’

Program is open to all school age children and teens. Registration runs throughout June. Watch for more details in the next issue of the Bavarian American and at your Libraries.

For more info call your USAG Grafenwoehr libraries at DSN 475-1740 or DSN 476-1740 or go online: www.library.eur.army.mil. To view library event photos go to www.flickr.com/photos/fraclibraries.

“Hammer Half” Marathon

The first “Hammer Half” Marathon will be June 12 beginning at the Main Post Physical Fitness Center.

Participants may preregister through the 18th CSSB’s website homepage www.16sustainment.army.mil/18CSSB/index.html.

Registration begins at 7–8:50 a.m., start time 9 a.m., 5k start -9:30 a.m., Family Mile Walk-10:15 a.m., lunch 1 – 2 p.m., awards-1:30 p.m.

Saddle Ridge Ranch VBS

Vacation Bible School will be held June 21–25 from 5:30 - 8:30 p.m. at the Main Post Chapel. Fun for youth from pre-K thru 6th Grade.

Anyone a Cowboy Crooner? We are looking for enthusiastic volunteers to teach the Vacation Bible School songs.

Wranglers wanted: Our wranglers will ensure all the ranch participants move from station to station with ease.

Become a Ranch Hand: Support the mission of the ranch, by leading and teaching God’s word in Bible study, Missions or Recreation stations.

Drama talent: Our drama team will present crazy fun-loving skits in conjunction with the music team.

Adults and High Schoolers may register to volunteer by emailing Susan Argueta susan.joy.argueta@googlemail.com or Michelle Clark smiledatya@yahoo.com. *Watchcare is available for volunteer’s children only ages 6 months through 3 years.

Hohenfels Briefs

High School graduation

Graduation for Hohenfels Middle High School will be June 11. Graduation will commence promptly at 6 p.m. in Berglengelfeld.

There will be an ID check at the door and graduation is by invitation only. Seating priority will be for seniors and their guests, dignitaries, teachers and other guests. For more, call DSN 466-3162, CIV 09472-83-3162.

Polish Pottery trip

Poland is traditionally known for its handcrafted goods such as the well-known Polish Pottery. One of the most popular cities to find the renowned ceramics is in Boleslawiec.

Enjoy a full day shopping for the traditional white and blue crockery, June 12. The bus will depart Hohenfels from ODR, building H15, at 3 a.m. and return at 11 p.m.

The cost is \$70 per person. Seating is limited to the first 50 people. Call to reserve your seats today. For more, call DSN 466-2060, CIV 09472-83-2060.

Regensburg tour, river cruise

Come with the Kontakt Club and enjoy the beautiful scenery of the old city of Regensburg, June 13. The group will meet at the Hohenfels Schiessstaettkapelle at 10 a.m., and expect to return at 6 p.m. Bus transportation will be provided but seats are limited.

The cost is 15 euros per person, which includes a one and a half hour sightseeing tour and river boat cruise. You will also have the option to eat lunch at the famous Regensburg Wurstkuchl, Sausage Kitchen, and you’ll have time for exploring the city.

For reservations, contact Andy Kirschenbauer at CIV 0176-80003950 or andreas@kirschenbauer.de.

Senior trip to Spain

High school seniors are invited to join Youth Programs on a trip to Mallorca, Spain, June 13-17.

The price is 350 euros, which includes transportation and accommodations. Contact the Youth Center for more information at DSN 466-4492.

Tax deadline approaching

The automatic extension to file your 2009 tax return and pay any federal income tax due for U.S. citizens and residents living outside the United States will expire on June 15.

All individuals who anticipate owing taxes and have not yet filed a tax return should file by the deadline or submit an application for an additional four-month extension. For more, call DSN 466-2836, CIV 09472-83-2836.

I Love My Daddy Crafts

Children of all ages can come to the library June 16 from 2:30-4 p.m. to make a special Father’s Day craft, a great gift idea that dads will love. For more, call DSN 466-1740, CIV 09472-83-1740.

Hallo Hohenfels

This is the place to be if you’re new to post. Hallo Hohenfels is a three-day event, June 16-18, packed with the exact information you need upon arrival. You will explore local communities by visiting

a local bakery and butcher shop, Mobelhof, a huge home decorating store, and a mall in Regensburg.

Find out how Hohenfels works without doing everything yourself and make some new friends at the same time.

Hallo Hohenfels begins at Army Community Service, Bldg. 10, at 8:30 a.m. For more information call ACS at DSN 466-4860, CIV 09472-83-4860.

Parent’s Night Out

Take advantage of the extended care offered by CYSS. Children six weeks old through kindergarten who are registered with Parent Central Services are eligible to come to the CDC, Bldg. 111, June 18 between 6:30-11:30 p.m. for extended care.

The price is \$20 per child. For more, call DSN 466-2078, CIV 09472-83-2078.

School Age Services lock-in

Children in grades 1-6 and registered with Parent Central Services are invited to a night of fun at the School Age Center, Bldg. 112, for a lock-in, June 18.

The price is \$20 per child. The fun starts at 6:30 p.m. and ends the next morning at 7:00 a.m. For more, call DSN 466-2078, CIV 09472-83-2078.

Bunco

Win great prizes, meet new friends and sample great food and beverage specials at Bunco night at the Zone, June 18. The cost is \$10 per person which includes a light buffet.

The doors open at 5:30 p.m., game starts at 6:30 p.m. Registration is recommended. Prizes will be given for most losses, most wins and most buncos.

Sign up online at <https://webtrac.mwr.army.mil/sites/eu.html> or call DSN 466-2060, CIV 09472-83-2060.

Texas Hold’em

Go all in at this month’s Texas Hold’em night at the Zone, June 18. The registration fee is \$25 and will include a light buffet.

Registration is recommended. All customers can register at Outdoor Recreation, Bldg. H15 or online at <https://webtrac.mwr.army.mil/sites/eu.html>. Doors will open at the Zone at 5:30 p.m. and the game will begin at 6:30 p.m.

There will be unlimited re-buys until 9:30 p.m. For more, call DSN 466-2060, CIV 09472-83-2060.

Mountain bike tournament

The U.S. Forces Europe Mountain Bike Series will hold a race at USAG Hohenfels on June 19.

This course is consistently rated as one of the best in Germany, and it is right here in our own backyard.

The series is conducted throughout various locations in Europe culminating

in the championship Oct. 2 in Hohenfels.

For more, call DSN 466-2060, CIV 09472-83-2060.

Cesky Krumlov Festival

This medieval festival takes the town of Cesky Krumlov in the Czech Republic back to the Renaissance times. Enjoy the old Czech market, historic town processions, knight tournaments, theater, music productions and traditional food.

The bus will depart Hohenfels from Outdoor Recreation, Bldg. H15, at 10 a.m. June 19 and return to Hohenfels at 2 a.m. The cost is \$55 for all ages. Seating is limited to the first 50 people. For more, call DSN 466-2060, CIV 09472-83-2060.

Food handler’s class dates

A food handler’s class will be offered in Hohenfels, June 24, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Yellow Ribbon Room, Bldg. 10. To reserve a seat in the class, call the Preventive Medicine office at DSN 476-2041/2138, CIV 09662-83-2041/2138.

Motorcycle training courses

Motorcycle Experienced Riders Courses are scheduled for June 17 and July 29 at 9 a.m. at Albertshof Hardstand #3. Intermediate/Remedial Drivers Training Courses are scheduled for June 25, July 16 and July 30 at 8-10:30 a.m. in Bldg. 46.

Motorcycle Basic Riders Courses are scheduled for June 15-16 and July 8-9 at 9 a.m. at Albertshof Hardstand #3. A Motorcycle Sport Bike Riders Course is scheduled for July 2 at 9 a.m. at Albertshof Hardstand #3.

For more information and to register for classes, visit <https://airs.lmi.org>.

Garmisch Briefs

Unless noted, all events meet at the Pete Burke Center. For more on any FMWR trips, contact the Garmisch Outdoor Recreation Alpine Experts at DSN 440-2638, CIV 08821-750-2638. Sign up at <https://webtrac.mwr.army.mil/webtrac/Garmischretrac.html>.

Bohemian Beers in Prague

June 11 - 13: This trip will begin an orientation tour of Prague – including how to get back to the hotel if your experience of the city is going to include any of the very late nightspots! There will be a “daytime tour” that includes a few more of the usual touristic sights. Tickets can be arranged for those who want to see a ballet or a modern opera). There will be a fair amount of free time and a guided tour of the Franz Kafka museum. Cost is \$270.

1. What was the name of the modern mobile artillery system the Army had considered to replace its aging howitzers?

a) The Peacemaker c) Stryker
b) The Crusader d) M60 MAS

2. The most highly decorated Army combat unit is the:

a) 1st Division
b) 442nd Regimental Combat Team
c) 82nd Airborne Division
d) 34th Infantry Division

3. Who was the last U.S. Army five-star general?

a) General of the Army David Petraeus
b) General of the Army Douglas MacArthur
c) General of the Army Dwight D. Eisenhower
d) General of the Army Omar N. Bradley

4. Do you have to be a U.S. citizen to join the U.S. Army?

a) No b) Yes

5. When was the U.S. Army officially formed?

a) June 14, 1775 c) June 14, 1776
b) July 4, 1776 d) July 4, 1812

6. What is the highest military award a Soldier can receive?

a) Silver Star
b) Distinguished Service Cross
c) Medal of Honor
d) Global War On Terrorism Expeditionary Medal

7. When was the Women’s Army Corps (WAC) dissolved, allowing women to serve in the regular Army?

a) 2001 b) 1945 c) 1978 d) 1992

8. Sgt. Alvin York earned the military’s highest honor for his valor during World War II when he shot and captured hundreds of German enemies.

a) True b) False

9. After 40 years of service, the iconic Army Jeep was replaced by what vehicle?

a) M1 Abrams b) HEMTT c) Stryker d) Humvee

10. How many years did the Civil War last?

a) Four b) Three c) Five d) Two

11. Who was the first Soldier to be awarded the Medal of Honor during Operation Iraqi Freedom?

a) Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith
b) Pvt. James Ryan
c) Pvt. 1st Class Jessica Lynch
d) Spc. Ross A. McGinnis

12. The Army expression “Hoah!” could be translated to mean what?

a) Yes sir! b) Attention! c) At Ease! d) Dismissed!

Answers: e’0I P’6 q’8 q’7 L’3 q’9 e’5 e’b p’E q’Z q’T

0-3 correct answers: Drop and give us 10!

4-7 correct answers: You’ve earned a stripe!

8-11 correct answers: The Pentagon Channel has nothing on you!

All 12 correct answers: You are the Army Strongest!

4th of July Independence Day Celebration

Grafenwoehr Parade Field

Live Entertainment

Lt. Dan Band 4 - 6:30 p.m.
“Pop nach 8” Band 7 - 10:30 p.m.
DJ 6:30 - 7 p.m. & break times

American Food & Fun

Face Painting, Balloon Twisting, Magic Show by Magic Maxx

~ Cards Games, Chess, Checkers, Dominoes, Badminton, Horseshoes, Volleyball and Jumping Castles

Fireworks - 10:30 p.m.

For more information contact the Special Events Coordinator, DSN 475-6167, Civ 09641-83-6167.
www.grafenwoehrmwr.com | [www.twitter.com/GrafenwoehrMWR](https://twitter.com/GrafenwoehrMWR)

What’s Happening

Garmisch (Continued)

Conquer the Zugspitze

June 12-13: At 2,966 meters, Germany’s highest peak is 2,200 meters higher than Garmisch! We will get there in two days. Starting at the Partnachklamm, we hike up through the stunning Reintal valley.
We will stay at the Reintalangerhütte, in the morning we will be serenaded with Zither music! Sunday we climb to the Zugspitzplatt glacier. Get a great lunch or scale the harrowing “Klettersteig” to the cross. (This trip will be repeated July 24 – 25.) Cost is \$149.

Bazaar and Silent Auction

June 18-20: The Big Mountain Bazaar is back, and in addition to assorted vendors the Garmisch Community Spouses Club will conduct a silent auction of themed baskets; bid on an Italian, Hawaiian, Texan, Oktoberfest and New Orleans basket for a taste of a particular region, or Golf, Gardening, Relaxation or Margaritaville hobby baskets. Even baskets for kids! Bidding begins at noon, Friday and closes at 5 p.m., Saturday. Winners can collect their baskets up until the close of the bazaar at 3 p.m., Sunday.

Top Chef Garda See

July 2-5: Three nights on the lake-shore in beautiful Torri del Benaco with two days of cooking classes in a villa overlooking the lake plus wine tasting.
Monday is market day - we head home stocking up on goodies and visit some vineyards on the South Tyrol Wine Road. A foodie extravaganza!
Departs 5 p.m. Cost: \$575.

Kaltenberg Tournament

July 10: Experience the largest medieval festival and jousting tournament in the world. This is a special night performance with amazing stunts and spectacular pyrotechnics.
This trip includes a two-course dinner and beer sampling session at the Schloss brewery restaurant.
This trip is not suitable for children! (See the Kids Show brief below) Departs at 2 p.m. Cost: \$109.

Bavarian Sea

July 17: The Chiemsee, Germany’s largest lake is one of Bavaria’s most beautiful places. Two ethereal islands float on the water in the middle of the lake. One island is home to “Mad King” Ludwig’s “Mini-Versailles” castle. The

other is home to a Benedictine convent with a cozy fishing village. A perfect summer daytrip. Departs at 8 a.m. Cost: \$49.

Kaltenberg Kids Show

July 18: This daytime performance of the largest medieval festival and jousting tournament in the world with amazing stunts and spectacular pyrotechnics is suitable for all ages. Immediately after the Knight’s Tournament finishes, the Kid’s Tournament begins! Departs at 9 a.m. Cost: Adults \$89 and children \$69.

Ansbach Briefs

Open House

The Behavioral Health Clinic in Storck Barracks will host an open house, June 15, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., in Bldg. 6516. Learn about the services available in the Storck Barracks community and even grab a bite to eat!
For more, call DSN 467-5106 or 09841-83-5106.

Murder mystery

Join the Terrace Playhouse Annex for an evening of murder and mayhem when they present the dinner theatre show, “Murder on the Oriental Rug.” Performances are scheduled for June 11 12, 18 and 19 from 6 p.m. until 9 p.m. Tickets are \$15 per person (includes dinner and show).
For reservations and ticket information, call DSN 468-7636 or CIV 0981-183636.

White water rafting

The Katterbach Outdoor Recreation Center is conducting a high-adrenaline whitewater rafting and canyoning trip to Austria. The price of \$325 includes transportation, rafting, canyoning and three overnights with breakfast and dinner. Trip leaves at 11 a.m., June 18, and returns at 6 p.m., June 21.
Call 09802-83-3225 or DSN 467-3225 for more information.

Field of Experiences

The “Field of Experiences for the Senses” on Woehrder Wiese, with varying emphasis every year, invites visitors between May and mid-September to explore the world of the senses at over 80 stations. Fifteen workshops provide hands-on experience.
Opening hours: Now to Sept. 13, Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday, 1-6 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Bavarian holidays: Saturday, 1-6 p.m.; Sunday to Friday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
Admission fees:
Families (at least 1 adult + children): Adults 5.60 euros, concessions 4 euros, children from 3 years: 3.20 euros.
For more, visit www.kuf-kultur.de/erfahrungsfeld.

Belgium antique shopping

The bus leaves for Tongeren, Belgium, June 13, one of Europe’s largest antique flea markets. The bus will depart at 4 a.m. and return at 11 p.m. Cost of \$49 for adults, \$29 for children pays for transportation only. Preregistration is required.
Call DSN 467-3225, CIV 09812-83-3225, for more information.

Schweinfurt Briefs

Community and contact info

For more information on the latest news, upcoming events, available services and resources, or to find the right point of contact for your concern, visit us at www.TeamSchweinfurt.com.

Explore Europa Park

The 44th ESB invites the entire community to join them on a trip to the Europa Park, Germany’s largest amusement park, June 19. Cost is €45 for adults and children age 4 and older and €15 for children under 4, including transportation.
For more, call DSN 354-2738, CIV 09721-96-2738.

Cub Scout Summer Camp

Students of 1st through 4th grade, who are not currently members of the Cub Scouts, are invited to join the Pack 630 for their Summer Camp near Ansbach, from Aug. 2-5. Activities include swimming, BB-gun shooting, archery, arts and crafts, nature hikes and more with over 100 boys. Total cost for the weeks camping is \$250 including all fees.
Register now through June 9 and be advised that only 10 slots are open.
For more, call CIV 09725-704610, CIV 0151-52585336.

Playmobil Fun Park

Sign up now through June 10 to experience the Playmobil Fun Park hosted by Finney Recreation Center June 19. Cost to enter the vast adventure playground is \$20 or €15.
For more, call DSN 353-8476, CIV 09721-96-8476.

Library youth events

Ledward Library offers various programs regularly in June and July. Enjoy Children’s Story Time & Crafts every Wednesday at 1 p.m. or join the Zeens for Teens & Edge Meetings, Wednesdays from 6 to 7 p.m.
Furthermore, a Soldier In-Processing Class is held every Wednesday at 9:30 a.m. For more, call DSN 354-1740, CIV 09721-96-1740.

Meet Marie-Luise Glaser

Ledward Library introduces Marie-Luise Glaser and invites everyone to meet the private book collector of facsimile prints and medieval books, June 14 at 5 p.m. Her collection will be on display from June 14-16.
For more, call DSN 354-1740, CIV 09721-96-1740.

CYSS Summer Programs

Child, Youth and School Services offers various free youth programs throughout summer. Register until June 14 for the Picture Schweinfurt Edge, June 21, and take your best shot of the park at the river, to be published in the Zeen magazine or register until June 15 for the Bowl-Bat-Pizza Marathon Edge June 22-25.
Not enough action yet? Register now through June 21 for the Get Fit Edge, held June 28-July 2, and enjoy some fitness fun. All programs are scheduled from 3 to 5 p.m. and open to youth grades 6-12.
Each program begins and ends at the Youth Center and transportation is provided for.
For a complete list of events or to sign up, call DSN 354-6414, CIV 09721-96-6414.

235th U.S. Army Birthday

USAG Schweinfurt invites the entire community to join them in celebrating the 235th U.S. Army Birthday, June 14, at Andrus Garden, outside Bldg. 206, on Ledward Barracks, starting at 4:30 p.m.

Weight loss support group

The WIC weight loss support group meets every second Thursday at 6 p.m. and every fourth Tuesday of the month at noon at the Yellow Ribbon Room on Ledward Barracks. The next meeting will be held June 12 at 6 p.m. This support group is open to all ID cardholders ages 12 and above and WIC membership is not required.
So come on out, participate, pick up valuable info and receive answers to your questions.
For more details, call DSN 354-96-6791, CIV 09721-96-6791.

ODR trips & programs

Outdoor Recreation offers various trips and programs for all community members. Let them take you on a “Hiking Trip to Pottenstein” June 12, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., visiting the Devil’s Cave and enjoying a fun outdoor rollercoaster or join them for a trip to the medieval town Rothenburg ob der Tauber.
Also June 12, a trip to Wuerzburg, where you will explore the botanical garden and enjoy some summer fun at the outdoor pool.
Don’t want to wait until the next trip? Ready for some outdoor fun right away? Try Redball every Tuesday through Friday from noon to 2 p.m.
For more, call DSN 353-8080, CIV 09721-96-8080.

Food Handlers Class

Take the food handlers class, June 17, from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. at the Yellow Ribbon Room to receive your food handlers’ certification – a requirement if you are serving prepared foods to the public. Space is limited.
For more or to sign up, call DSN 476-2041/2138, CIV 09662-83-2041/2138.

Parent’s Night Out

Register now through June 18 for the next Parent’s Night Out, June 25, from 6:30 to 11:30 p.m. Children must have current CYSS registration and immunizations at time of reservation.
For more, call DSN 354-6517, CIV 09721-96-6517.

PWOC Strawberry Picking

The Protestant Women of the Chapel invite you to a Strawberry Picking June 18, starting at 10 a.m. Meet at Ledward

Chapel and carpool to the local patch. Please bring euros and a container. You can eat while you pick and children are welcome.
For more, call CIV 0170-277-8980.

Free Fitness Classes

Kessler Fitness Center offers free fitness classes including Boot Camp Spinning, Tuesdays and Thursdays at noon; Circuit Challenge, Tuesdays and Thursdays at 3:30 p.m.; Spinning, Wednesdays at 6 p.m.; Pilates, Tuesdays at 6 p.m. and Wednesdays at noon; and Power Yoga, Thursdays at 6 p.m. Pre- and postnatal fitness is available upon request.
For more, call DSN 354-6735, CIV 09721-96-6735.

BOSS events

The award-winning Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers program offers numerous programs monthly. Join them for a movie night every Tuesday starting at 6 p.m.
Bring your own movie, if you like or watch one of their selection. Show your skills in pool, Xbox, Wii, PS3 and more and compete in the BOSS Tournament Nights, every Thursday starting at 6 p.m.
The next BOSS meeting will be held June 22 at 2 p.m. and their next Single Soldier Dinner the same night at 6 p.m. All events are held at the Finney Recreation Center on Conn Barracks, Bldg. 64.
For a complete list of upcoming events, call DSN 353-8234, CIV 09721-96-8234.

Beginner’s Swim Course

Many children love playing with water and in being in water. While lakes and swimming pools are great fun in summer, parents should also be aware of the risks.
Children who are able to swim are by far less endangered to drowning. To teach children swim properly and train them for safe water fun, SKIES offers a two weeks beginner’s swim course for children of the ages 5 to 12 at the swimming pool in Schonungen, starting June 21. The cost of \$89 covers the complete two week course with eight meetings.
For more, call DSN 354-6414, CIV 09721-96-6414.

Bulk trash pick-up

Bulk trash pick-up is scheduled for June 22 at Askren Manor, Yorktown Village, and government-leased housing. Place bulk items out before 7 a.m. on day of pick-up, but no earlier than the day before. Bulk trash includes only those items too large to transport in your vehicle.
For more, call DSN 354-6201, CIV 09721-96-6201.

1st Annual

Grafenwoehr “Uncorked”

Wine Gala

"Enjoy an evening of wine, appetizers and music"



FRIDAY, JUNE 18, 2010 **7-11 P.M.**
SATURDAY, JUNE 19, 2010 **7-11 P.M.**

Tower Conference Center - General Eisenhower Room

Enjoy an evening of sampling fine wines with an option to purchase at promotional pricing to take home the same evening. Listen to live music and a chance to win from several raffle opportunities. The evening attire is Cocktail. Must be a valid I.D. Card Holder and must be at least 18 years of age. Tickets can be purchased at the MWR Rose Barracks Sports Bar, Java Café, Rose Barracks / Graf Bowling Centers, or your AAFES Customer Service Counters at the Grafenwoehr PX, Vilesek Furniture Store, or Hohenfels PX.

AAFES and MWR celebrate the Grafenwoehr Community ~ Congratulations, 100 Years and Counting!

EVENING EVENTS:

- Wine sampling and education
- Appetizers
- Designated Driver Program
- Special pricing on wines
- Live Music and Dance
- Great social gathering and more!
- Show your Gala ticket at the door and you will receive a free custom made Gala Wine Glass!

Advance TICKETS:

price per evening	\$25	per person
	\$40	for couples

JUNE & JULY 2010

FITNESS CLASSES

Bootcamp Spinning: Tues +Thurs, 12-12:30 p.m.

Circuit Challenge: Tues + Thurs, 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Spinning: Weds, 6-7 p.m.

Pilates: Tues, 6-7 p.m. + Weds, 12-1 p.m.

Power Yoga: Thurs, 6-7 p.m.

Upon Request: Pre/Post-Natal Fitness

● ● ●

USAG SCHWEINFURT
KESSLER FITNESS CENTER
KESSLER FIELD, BLDG. 451
09721-96-6735/DSN 354-6735

NO EXCUSES...BE THERE!



Pilgrimage to Craggy Island

Twists, turns, right-side driving and a movie star on the Emerald Isle



Inis Oirr is known by most Americans as the fictitious Craggy Island in the sitcom “Father Ted,” certainly earns its name as seen in this view of the lighthouse.

Correspondent shares Emerald Isle exploits while searching for the fabled zero-euro flight

Story and photos by
John Reese
USAG Garmisch Public Affairs

My wife has been bugging me for a decade for us to visit Ireland. I finally started making reservations when a combination of factors such as smoke-free public places and a festival based on my favorite Irish comedy show fell into place.

The roundtrip airline tickets to Dublin were purchased so far in advance that the cost was zero plus the ubiquitous airport and other fees, but it placed us on the east side of Ireland when we needed to be on the west side.

We took an inexpensive commuter hop to the west side as ground transportation would arrive too late to make our bus/boat combo from Galway to Inis Oirr island off the west coast of Ireland. Accommodations on the island were very affordable but limited, so to get a room we had to be registered for the festival and have a secret password.

We booked at a weekend at Bernie’s (the name of the owner of our B&B) that included a full Irish breakfast. Finally, the return to Dublin from Galway was purchased for a mere two euros for both of us on an intercity express bus that would take us directly to Dublin Airport with plenty of time to make our flight to Munich. I had everything well planned well in advance.

However, no plan survives first contact.

The first plot twist came about a week before our trip: the famous

Irish actress Maureen O’Hara, star of 63 movies (many of them co-starring John Wayne) invited my wife to dinner. It was a great honor my lady couldn’t refuse.

Fortunately, I’d built in an extra night in Galway we traded away to instead spend in Glengarriff on Bantry Bay, 185 miles south.

Unfortunately, renting a car in Ireland is expensive, and I’d never driven on the right side of road nor used a stick shift lefthanded. To maximize safety so I could focus on my driving I chose an automatic over a manual transmission. The two euro return was now about €200 for a 23-hour rental, including the drop off fee at Cork Airport so we could catch a commuter flight back to Dublin in time for our flight to Munich; at this late stage the price of the ticket had gone from zero to several hundred euros each and the short hop airline was a vastly cheaper alternative.

Travel day began easy enough: a morning train from Garmisch to the airport in Munich got us to the terminal easy, and the flight to Dublin landed early. The biggest surprise was the perfect spring weather, warm and sunny instead of cold and rainy as we were told to expect. Even the locals expressed surprise at the weather that lasted our entire visit while it snowed back in Garmisch.

At Dublin Airport the departure gate for our commuter flight to Galway was five yards from our arrival gate; unfortunately due to the way it works there we had to exit the boarding area and clear customs to get the necessary boarding passes before doing the security checkpoints again, eating time up to the last possible minute.

Upon landing in Galway, a city bus took us downtown where we explored and visited a pub off Eyre Square for the first of many Irish

stouts. Curiously, the locals were drinking popular American beers, a phenomenon that continued the duration of our visit. We also stopped for unimpressive fish and chips at a place lauded in many a tour guidebook.

A chartered bus took boat passengers to Ros a’ Mhil, a port 45 minutes west of Galway where we boarded the ship Banrion Na Farraige to Inis Oirr. It’s a place best known to Americans as the fictitious Craggy Island in the sitcom “Father Ted.”

By the time we arrived it was pitch black with few lights beyond the quay. A neon beacon led us to a pub, where the proprietor pretended we’d landed on the wrong island, and then made amends by driving us to our bed and breakfast. Hostess Bernie warmly welcomed us with a cup of tea and our long day of planes, trains and automobiles was done.

Tedfest IV was an ecumenical experience with roughly 350 Irish, 20 Brits, two Aussies, two Americans, and one Spaniard paying homage to “Father Ted.” The closest comparison might be a Star Trek convention. All of the participants came as their favorite character. If you’re unfamiliar with the show, the

writers produced some of the tightest comedy scripts ever, and the cast, as the Irish say, was brilliant.

Betwixt organized events, dances, parties, contests and a football match, we explored the island. I climbed aboard the rusted remains of the Plassey, a cargo ship seen in the opening credits of the show wrecked 65 years to the day before.

The islanders speak Irish amongst themselves, and Inis Oirr is a mecca for those seeking traditional Ireland. When the fest ended we said farewell to new old friends and drove south.

Don’t expect autobahns here; the winding narrow roads of west Ireland abounded with roundabouts, farm tractors, and herds of sheep that caused some interesting traffic jams. We stopped in Limerick for lunch, and drove through Kilarney National Park, at one point passing through either a wildfire or a controlled burn.

Festival goers head for the quay to embark for Inis Mor, the next island over. The pirate-day theme had nothing to do with the show, the organizers just thought it was the right thing to do.

The last 20 miles were the gnarliest and the most beautiful. Still, we made our dinner engagement with an hour to spare, and had an uneventful drive with no GPS and no mistakes to Cork the next morning, again with plenty of time for our flight.

In Dublin we had to do the same drill exiting security to get our flight back to Germany, but we were ready this time and breezed through the checkpoints.

As for why we were chosen to dine with one of the most famous actresses to grace the silver screen, that’s a story over a cold pint of stout for another time.



Ancient castle ruins, lots of rocks, and a giant cup of tea tower over the island.



Thrown high on the rocks perfectly upright, March 10, 1960, the shipwrecked cargo vessel Plassey slowly rusts. The residents of Inis Oirr rescued all of the crew using rocket-propelled breeches buoys. The ship is best known from the opening credits of “Father Ted.”

Plays bring message of healing from ancient Greece

Story and photo by
Kristin Bradley
USAG Hohenfels Public Affairs

As the United States continues its ninth year of war in Afghanistan, military leaders have been working harder than ever to educate troops about the psychological ramifications war can have on service members.

Though the military community has placed increased emphasis on those issues over the past few years, they are certainly not new ones, and Soldiers and community members at U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels saw just how ancient those issues are during a special performance at the Post Theater, May 26. Actors with Theater of War productions performed dramatic readings of “Ajax” and “Philoctetes,” plays the Greek playwright and general Sophocles wrote almost 2,500 years ago to be performed in front of his troops.

Director Bryan Doerries said the two stories – “Ajax,” about a warrior who tries to kill his commanding officers and then kills himself; and “Philoctetes,” about a famous Greek warrior who, after contracting an incurable and painful illness, is left on a deserted island by his fellow soldiers – remain as relevant to today’s military as they were to troops in Sophocles’ time.

Doerries said his company, which has performed 17 other readings at military locations throughout Europe in May and has performed more than 85 total to date, uses the plays to start a conversation about the psychological aspects of war and the challenges faced by service members and shared by their families, caregivers and nation.

After accomplished stage and screen actors with screen credits that include “Law and Order,” “The Wire,” “Heroes,” “Taking Chance,” “The Talented Mr. Ripley” and more, performed the readings, the spotlight then shifted to the audience of Hohenfels Soldiers.

A panel of five Hohenfels community members and Soldiers started an audience-wide



Actors Jamie Hector, left, and Brendan Griffin perform a dramatic reading of the play Ajax, written by Greek playwright Sophocles almost 2,500 years ago. A group of actors with Theater of War Productions visited U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels, May 26, where they performed readings of Ajax and Philoctetes, two plays about the psychological impact of war on Soldiers. Director Bryan Doerries said the performances seek to help destigmatize psychological injury while opening a dialogue within the military and the nation about how to support troops returning from war.

discussion of the dramas by volunteering their reaction to the stories. Doerries then asked the audience questions about the meaning of certain scenes or lines in the play.

As many Soldiers volunteered their insights, Doerries and the audience discussed issues such as the emotions that occur when a comrade is killed, the role of pain and anger in grief, how to help a friend or loved one who is hurting and how to find meaning in suffering.

Though the performance and discussion

lasted only about two hours, Doerries said he hopes those two hours are just the start.

“We hope that the conversations we start in this room radiate out and continue for days to come,” said Doerries.

While Doerries said the mission of the company is to help destigmatize psychological injury and start discussions among service members about how to recover, he also spoke extensively about how important it is for the rest of the country to enter that discussion.

After talking about what it means to care for a Soldier who is injured physically or psychologically, Doerries said: “I think this pertains not just to battle buddies or military families, but I think it pertains to our nation because I think until then 99 percent of us who didn’t volunteer to deploy to Iraq or Afghanistan listen to what those of you who did have to say, and you are the ones speaking and we are the ones who are listening, I don’t think healing is going to begin in our country. It is a responsibility for us as civilians to be the ones who are listening and the ones who are creating the conditions for healing to happen.

“If we’re going to be a nation at war, we should be a nation at war, not just a volunteer Army... that is the spirit with which we brought this project here,” said Doerries.

The director said, above all, he wanted service members to know they are not fighting this war alone – neither the wars in Afghanistan or Iraq nor the wars many must fight upon their return.

“I couldn’t think of a more important message to be delivering at this point in time in our history and I think if we were going to deliver a message from general Sophocles 2,500 years ago to you today it is this: you are not alone in the room, you are not alone across the country, you are not alone across the world and, most importantly, you are not alone across time.

“The issues that many folks today may feel like they might be the only person on the planet that is dealing with are age old and warrior culture before us has struggled with these issues and made plays about them.”

For more information and resources about psychological health, including access to 24-hour help, visit the Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury website at www.dcoe.health.mil.

For more information about Theater of War, including videos of performances and audience reactions and information about future performances, visit www.theater-of-war.com.

Memorial Day Service emulates National observance



Photo by Kristin Bradley

(Left to right) Hohenfels Boy Scouts Greg Cannata, Clinton Schwartz and Kevin Brazie scatter flower petals at the base of the flag poles in front of the Joint Multinational Readiness Center headquarters building during a Memorial Day ceremony, May 27. The scouts re-enacted an event that occurred at the first large Memorial Day observance in the United States when children scattered flowers over the graves of Soldiers in Arlington National Cemetery.

Hohenfels environmental program excels in assessment

The first article in a three-part series about environmental management at U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels

by Kristin Bradley
USAG Hohenfels Public Affairs

The Hohenfels Training Area covers 40,000 acres, making it the second largest U.S. training area in Europe, and each year thousands of U.S. and international troops train here, bringing with them their vehicles, weapons, people and equipment. Hohenfels also has thousands of permanent Soldiers, civilians and family members who live and work on post. They drive their cars here, eat here, use energy here and generate waste here every day.

Working hard to keep all that activity from negatively impacting the surrounding environment is a group of scientists and engineers with the U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels Department of Public Works Environmental Division who ensure Hohenfels stays in compliance with a set of regulations and guidelines several textbooks thick.

While the garrison Environmental Division keeps the post in line with a set of regulations based on both German and American laws and guidelines, they are themselves inspected every three years through an External Environmental Performance Assessment System by a team from Installation Management Command-Europe.

After conducting Hohenfels’ evaluation, May 3-11, Walter Christensen, environmental protection specialist with IMCOM-Europe and assessment program manager, said Hohenfels currently has one of the better environmental programs he has seen in Europe.

The preliminary evaluation report listed three positive findings, activities that go above and beyond what is required by regulation and could serve as a model for other programs.

Those findings included the division’s Environmental Management System audits.

Reinhold Froehlich, and environmental engineer at Hohenfels, said the EMS is a management tool for commanders used to identify, manage, reduce and eliminate risks to the environment and organization.

According to the evaluation, EMS unit audits are required once per year, but Hohenfels conducts them twice per year, a practice that exceeds requirements and has led to significantly improved performance in ensuring regulation compliance.

Jochen Doerr, an environmental engineer and Environmental Division contractor, said in accordance with EMS, making sure every inch

of Hohenfels complies with environmental regulations means training environmental officers at more than 60 organizations on post.

The Environmental Division even works with rotational troops who use the training area to make sure their practices comply with Hohenfels regulations.

“Our job is to reduce solid waste, hazardous waste, energy and water consumption,” said Doerr.

Another positive finding noted in the assessment report was the innovative modification of a contaminated sludge and soil treatment facility in Albertshof, where Soldiers wash dirt, oil and other contaminated materials off their vehicles.

The 2008 modification separates the grime into contaminated and noncontaminated particles that are then taken to a brick making plant or used in road construction. The project meant DPW was able to convert 1,500 metric tons of particles that would otherwise have been disposed of as hazardous into useful materials.

The sludge treatment facility, along with the EMS and what the report called an outstanding natural resources program with excellent results in managing biodiversity, meant Hohenfels improved since its last evaluation three years ago and was deemed to have a good environmental posture.

Both Hohenfels and IMCOM-E staff said because Hohenfels did so well overall, evaluators were able to take a closer look at smaller items.

“Because we weren’t spending so much time on broad program issues we were really able to get to specifics, to really go dumpster diving if you will,” said Christensen.

Christensen said evaluators did find some issues that needed fixed, but according to Doerr most had relatively easy and inexpensive solutions.

“One of the things I was happy to see at Hohenfels is they were jumping right on problems and correcting them the next day. They were not required to fix them that fast but I think that attitude is why they have a good environmental program — they really try hard to make it better,” said Christensen.

Editor’s Note: The second part of this series, an in-depth look at the USAG Hohenfels’ natural resources program, one of the evaluation’s positive findings, will appear in the June 23 issue of the Bavarian News.

79-year-old Soldier back on active duty

by Kristin Bradley
USAG Hohenfels Public Affairs

Many service members who joined the military 60 years ago have long since completed their service and retired.

Col. William Bernhard, like many who first joined the military in 1950, has indeed retired, but has done so not once, but four times; and as of March, the 79-year-old is again on active duty and serving at the Hohenfels Health Clinic as the Soldier readiness doctor and flight surgeon for aviators stationed in Bavaria.

Though Bernhard has had a full civilian career — he is a physician who completed his anesthesia residency and physiology fellowship at Dartmouth Medical School, has had private practices in Vermont and Maryland, was an associate professor of anesthesiology at New York University Medical Center and spent 10 years as the chief of anesthesia at the Shock Trauma Center at the University of Maryland — he has also found time to serve in the military for most of his life.

Though a sports injury lead to a medical discharge just one year after joining the Marines in 1950, Bernhard did not let that setback keep him from military service. Since then he has served with Army, Navy, Marine, Air Force and National Guard units across the globe including in Honduras, Korea, Italy, Germany, Iraq and Afghanistan.

Bernhard said he hopes he has followed in the footsteps of his father, another successful physician who at the height of his career in the 1940s decided to give up his private practice and join the Army.

"I have chosen to serve not as a total career but when I am needed. I felt I needed to serve when there was a war going on — it just so happens that in my lifetime there have been a lot of wars," said Bernhard. "I hope my small contribution has made a difference because I truly believe that America's finest wear the uniform and they deserve the best health care we can give them. It's an honor and a privilege to be able to do that."

Though he calls his military service his "small contribution," Bernhard's military assignments can hardly be called insignificant.

While serving with the Vermont Army National Guard he wrote the lesson plans for the U.S. Army Mountain Warfare School summer and winter phases and then successfully completed each. He has served as the chief of anesthesia at military hospitals in New York and Oman, was part of Afghan President Hamid Karzai's protection detail in 2003, and served as the 155th Brigade Combat Team surgeon in Iraq in 2005. Bernhard, who said his first love is aviation, earned his master flight surgeon wings in 1992 after logging more than 1,000 flight hours.

After serving with so many units and service members and after seeing what the trauma of war can do to a person both physically and mentally, Bernhard said he is now on a crusade to arm Soldiers against what he sees as one of their biggest enemies: post-traumatic stress disorder.

"It is a crusade," said Bernhard. "I want the Army to do a better job in preventing or lessening the signs and symptoms (of PTSD) because it is so debilitating."

The pain of PTSD is something Bernhard said he is intimately acquainted with. Bernhard said his wife, who served as a Navy nurse in Vietnam and then as a registered nurse and physician's assistant in the Army National Guard, developed PTSD that eventually required hospitalization.

"She's a real hero," Bernhard said.

Having seen lots of trauma himself as a military physician for the past half-decade, and watching it affect friends who served in World War II, Vietnam, Korea, Iraq and Afghanistan, Bernhard said he is convinced there is a way to better prepare troops for the psychological dangers of combat.

"We do a wonderful job training everyone to take care of physical trauma — we teach them things like how to apply a tourniquet or open an airway — and we need to do the same with mental injuries," said Bernhard. "We have

I hope my small contribution has made a difference, because I truly believe that America's finest wear the uniform and they deserve the best health care we can give them. It's an honor and a privilege to be able to do that.

Col. William Bernhard
Soldier Readiness Doctor/Flight Surgeon



to do it up front, we can't be playing catch up after the injury occurs." He advocates teaching Soldiers coping skills like how to manage stress and how to relax during downtime.

"The Army recognizes that now and is putting emphasis on it thanks to leaders like Gen. Casey (Gen. George Casey, chief of staff of the Army) and Command Sgt. Maj. Rhodes."

Retired Command Sgt. Maj. Samuel M. Rhodes is the author of "Changing the Military Culture of Silence," a book detailing his struggles with PTSD that Bernhard said he wishes

every Soldier would read. Bernhard said he sees his crusade against PTSD as the last thing he can do for the men and women of the armed forces — when his time in Hohenfels is finished, Bernhard said he is retiring for good this time.

"I serve one, because I want to, but most of all because of the men and women that wear the uniforms of our armed services and the NATO countries we serve with. I consider it a privilege and an honor that I've been given the opportunity to continue to do it as long as I have."

Annual celebration showcases culture, family



Story and photo by
Kristin Bradley
USAG Hohenfels Public Affairs

The annual Asian Pacific American Heritage Month celebration at U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels attracted hundreds of community members to the Community Activity Center, May 19, where cultural displays, a guest speaker, dance demonstrations and mountains of food introduced guests to the many different cultures throughout Asia and the Pacific Islands.

"Normally when you think of Asian Pacific you think of some fire dancers and a pig and it's much more than that," said guest speaker Command Sgt. Maj. Patrick Akuna, 2nd Battalion, 28th Infantry Regiment.

According to Akuna, a native Hawaiian and former 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment command sergeant major, Asian-Pacific Americans can trace their roots to at least 25 different nationalities, more than 75 different languages and hun-

Bernadette Te'i, left, and Sheila Robinson perform a Samoan dance meant to greet people and welcome them to the Samoan way of life during the Asian Pacific Heritage Month celebration at the U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels Community Activity Center, May 19.

dreds of different ethnic groups.

To help attendees experience those many different cultures, volunteers not only planned, rehearsed and performed many traditional dances, they also prepared enough food to serve the hundreds of guests with heaping plates of a variety of cultural foods and still, incredibly, have leftovers.

Christina Robinson, a junior at Hohenfels High School who volunteered to dance at the event, said she was eager to showcase her Samoan heritage and educate people about the many different cultures represented during Asian-Pacific Heritage Month.

"I think not many people know how many different cultures and different languages there are (in Asia and the Pacific Islands.) I wanted to be involved to learn and keep the Samoan culture alive, and show people what it's about," said Robinson.

Akuna said volunteers spent so much time planning the celebration, not only to make sure the cultures are remembered and passed down through their own generations, but also to help educate other community members about Asian Pacific heritage.

"We love being American but we keep sacred our culture too. The biggest thing is to make sure we remember it so we can pass it on," said Akuna.

Volunteers said while they each want-

ed to educate attendees about their different cultures, they all share one common trait: they all deeply value family and community.

As he watched his daughter perform a traditional dance, Akuna said he and other event organizers sought to communicate the importance of family with the celebration.

"It is all about family. We hug when we shake hands; everyone is uncle and aunty to your kids. Music and dance is all a part of that too. When we go home everyone knows how to play the ukulele and when we sit around someone will start to dance or sing as we play," said Akuna.

As an example of the importance of community, Akuna pointed to the many Asian and Pacific Island community members from Grafenwoehr who traveled to Hohenfels to dance and showcase their diverse cultures.

In addition to bringing the Asian-Pacific communities from Grafenwoehr and Hohenfels together, event organizers also welcomed community members from Hohenfels who have no Asian or Pacific Island heritage, but wanted to learn more or simply wanted to have fun learning the dances.

"That is why we do this, to bring you into our family and teach you our culture, hoping you enjoy the food and enjoy our time here in our home away from home," said Akuna.

The Whigs rock Hohenfels' Zone

Story and photo by
Kristin Bradley
USAG Hohenfels Public Affairs

Though they've performed on large stages at venues such as Lollapalooza and Madison Square Garden, The Whigs did not hold back during their concert at U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels, May 20, where they filled the Zone with enough energy to reach the back row of a packed superdome.

During their weeklong USO tour throughout Germany and the United Kingdom, the trio from Athens, Ga., stopped in Hohenfels bringing their unique style of ear-popping garage

rock, complete with long hair, ratty T-shirts and creative drum solos.

Though they have played rock festivals all over the world, appeared on the "Late Show with David Letterman," "Late Night with Conan O'Brien" and received glowing reviews from Rolling Stone, Vanity Fair, People magazine, American Songwriter and more, the threesome seemed surprisingly low-key while they had lunch at the Warrior Sports Cafe and spoke with the local Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation staffers who organized their Hohenfels stop.

"This has been a pretty educational

experience," lead vocal and guitarist Parker Gispert said of his first time visiting a military post. "We play music for a living and there are people here doing much greater things with

See TRIO, page 25

(From left) Tim Deaux, Julian Dorio and Parker Gispert play a free concert for community members at U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels, May 20. The group is part of a USO tour with stops in Germany and the United Kingdom.



Griffins honor the life of fallen comrade



Staff Sgt. Kiwanya Heard, right, and Staff Sgt. Yomaira Santos render final honors during a memorial ceremony honoring the life of Staff Sgt. Bryon Chaney at the Katterbach Post Chapel, May 25. Chaney passed away May 20 following a battle with cancer. Heard and Santos are squad leaders at the Warrior Transition Battalion-Katterbach, where Chaney was assigned following his cancer diagnosis.

Story and photos by
Sgt. Anna K. Perry
12th Combat Aviation Brigade

KATTERBACH, Germany — The life of a fallen Griffin was honored during a memorial ceremony at the Katterbach Post Chapel, May 25. Friends, family and fellow Soldiers gathered to remember the life and military service of Staff Sgt. Bryon Patrick Chaney, who passed away May 20, following a battle with cancer.

Chaney, who was assigned to the Katterbach Warrior Transition Battalion following his cancer diagnosis in March 2010, is survived by his wife, Sandra, and their two children, Bryon and Jasmine. Chaney served as an Aviation Operations Specialist for more than 20 years. Prior to his reassignment to the WTB, Chaney served with 5th Battalion, 158th Aviation Regiment, 12th Combat Aviation Brigade.

Chaney was a dedicated professional until the very end, remembered Lt. Col. Thomas Axtman, commander of the Warrior Transition Battalion-Europe.

“As (Sgt. Maj. William Gardner) and I entered his hospital room, he struggled to rise up to some sem-



Chaney

honor he felt at being asked to reflect on Chaney's life.

“I immediately knew that I needed to talk about his dedication to duty, his loyalty to the United States Army and, most importantly, his love of his family. I think you measure the success of a man based on the size of his heart, and Staff Sgt. Chaney had a heart the size of Texas,” Reeder said.

Chaney had not only a big heart — but a strong and resilient heart. Reeder shared a story of Chaney's strength and endurance that shone brightly during a time of great personal sorrow.

Reeder recalled that during their Afghanistan deployment, Chaney received a Red Cross message with the news that his father had passed away. Not two weeks after returning

blance of attention despite our attempts to get him to remain at rest. This speaks volumes of the Soldier that he was,” Axtman said.

Sgt. Maj.

Terry Reeder

described the

from his emergency leave, Chaney received another message — this time informing him of his mother's death.

“I mention this because I learned a great deal when it comes to dealing with great sadness and adversity. Staff Sgt. Chaney certainly overcame these events — and he always came back to us being a positive team player,” Reeder said.

Several letters written by friends of Chaney's who are currently deployed were read at the service.

Staff Sgt. Paul Turner, who was Chaney's neighbor for three years in Obereichenbach, Germany, wrote about long talks he shared with Chaney, who often spoke about the joys of parenting and the deep love he shared with his wife.

Both Reeder and Turner also remembered the fact that Chaney was always riding a bicycle.

“I don't know if he even owned a car because I've never seen him drive one,” Reeder fondly recalled.

As the final notes of taps faded away, Chaney's family, friends and fellow Soldiers stepped forward to render final honors to a dedicated non-commissioned officer who so proudly served his country and family.

Ansbach agencies showcase 2010 summer events

by **Ronald H. Toland Jr.**
USAG Ansbach Public Affairs

Agencies of the Ansbach garrison and their staff came together this week to showcase their summer happenings for the community.

A garrison leadership initiative to promote its programs and events for families in June, July and August, the group braved the elements in both Storck Barracks and Katterbach Kaserne.

“This is to provide information and programming going on for the summer within the community to our members,” said Vikki Hanrahan, action officer for The Summer Happenings.

Agencies promoting their events, with plenty of free giveaways to boot, included: the clinics, chapels, marketing and the garrison environmental office, which provided proper recycling guidance to inform customers how to sort and separate waste to save valuable resources.

“These events are really necessary for our division to keep customers informed to save our environment, money and follow the regulation of our environmental management system, especially recycling, which was

our theme for this event,” said Jutta Seefried, environmental protection assistant. “Information and education are helpful to distribute recycling guidance,” she added.

In addition to proper recycling practices, health care awareness was stressed.

“We are promoting the prevention of skin cancer, sunburn and heat-related illness as well as how to exercise safely in the coming months,” said Cathy Gehrau, community health nurse at the Katterbach Health Clinic.

“We just want to make people aware of how to take care of themselves ... over the summer,” she added.

While health and physical wellness is important, the chapels promoted spiritual wellness with their ministries and gave away free books and materials on family wellness.

“We want to promote spiritual resilience,” said John Edwards, director of religious services at the Katterbach chapel.

The garrison safety office, which is promoting overall summer safety, emphasized motorcycle and composite risk management.

“It is a checklist to common sense — like in an SOP nature,” said David Zipf, USAG Ansbach safety officer.

“Safety is everybody's responsibility,” he added.

USAG Ansbach emergency services focused on bicycle safety, encouraging cyclists to register their bikes with the Provost Marshal's Office and child supervision; the fire department led a safe cooking demonstration, spotlighting fire extinguisher use classes for spouses.

“The idea is to let people know what exciting events and programs our garrison has to offer during the summer months. At these locations, it is also very convenient because many people come here,” said Col. Christopher Hickey, U.S. Army Garrison Ansbach commander.

With all the garrison and surrounding communities have to offer, people do not have to stay cooped up all summer.

“Come outta tha house. Really, don't miss the beauty of the country,” said Elijah Ham, Storck Barracks, area support team manager. “We found that one of the biggest issues we have been having is keeping people informed of things that are going on,” he said.

In conjunction with families taking full advantage of the summer months, upcoming activities include:



Ansbach Environmental office personnel provide literature and goodies and encourage residents to save energy by recycling books and other items.

camp and hiking trips; an upcoming art exhibit; events for single Soldiers and those who are unaccompanied, and other trips sponsored by Army Community Service.

“I got free information about summer camps for the kids and teens, and activities, like family trips that we plan to go on this weekend,”

said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Luis Frayre, 3rd Airfield Operations Battalion, 58th Aviation Regiment, at Storck Barracks. “This is good information and really good stuff that you do not know is out there until you come and see for yourself what is available. A lot of this stuff is either cheap or free.”

Community theatre shines despite challenges

by **Ronald H. Toland Jr.**
USAG Ansbach Public Affairs

“That is the magic of theatre,” said Victoria Hanrahan, entertainment director for the Ansbach garrison talking about the new stage and set at its temporary location, inside the old Barton Barracks Dining Facility in Ansbach. “It has that black box feel to it,” she added.

According to Hanrahan, the 2009-2010 theatre season is wrapping up, which she said starts in late August with auditions and runs through the end of May.

However, she said there is a bonus this year.

“We're going to do an extra performance in June — a murder mystery dinner theatre — kinda an extra add-on to the season,” she said. “As well as our summer youth workshop in June and July,” she added.

But she says that the significance of community theatre not only lines up with regional leadership goals, but for the community as well — for participants and audience — and ties into some of the health and wellness issues currently present in military environments today.

“It is an emotional investment and can very cathartic,” said Hanrahan.

“Being involved in theatre lines up with the spiritual and emotional pillars, and the theatre program fills the health and wellness one — it is an integral part of both the emotional and social pillars, as well as family and recreation, too,” she said. “It almost fits all of them in one way or another,” she added.

Hanrahan also mentioned theatre is an outlet.

“It is a great way to get involved in the community — get out of the house and get involved,” she said. “It is statistically proven that children do better in school and life if they are involved in the arts. It helps balance out life.”

While Hanrahan is the entertainment director, which is a full-time job in itself, she performs many other additional functions and duties throughout the year.

“It is a passion, you have to have a passion to be involved in the arts. It is not just a job,” she said. “Plus lots of coffee, lots of coffee and a tremendous support group of staff and volunteers in the community, which would not exist without them, but that is the nature of working in the arts: the show will go on.”

Community members who want to get involved and become thespians can contact the playhouse at DSN 468-7636.

Memorial Day honored



Photo by Ronald H. Toland, Jr.

(Left to right) Fred Lane, American Legion, Post 1982; Eddy Stelter, Veteran of Foreign Wars, Post 9342; Col. Christopher Hickey, USAG Ansbach commander; Sgt. 1st Class Rogelio Lopezvasquez, DPTMS; and 12th Combat Aviation Brigade Soldiers came together at Katterbach Kaserne, May 27, to pay tribute to the memories of the nation's fallen heroes during a Memorial Day wreath-laying ceremony.

Nevada Guardsmen bolster Garmisch police force



Six military police officers of the Nevada National Guard take a break from patrol duties at the heli-pad on Sheridan Kaserne. The team has made a positive impact on the garrison’s security posture.

Story and photos by
John Reese
USAG Garmisch Public Affairs

Six Soldiers from the 72nd Military Police Company traded the desert climes of Henderson, Nev., for the cooler Alpine weather of southern Bavaria during their annual training. The MPs of the 72nd MP Co. get sent all over the world, said senior NCO Sgt. 1st Class Darius Harper. “Wherever there is a mission — Italy, Germany, Haiti, as well as Afghanistan and Iraq,” he said. The company has a long history of overseas deployments dating back to North Africa in 1942 as well as domestic emergencies in Nevada and support to other states. “It’s a great asset having them here,” said Staff Sgt. Jerame Stoffer, Garmisch desk sergeant. “Their presence allows us to extend our working relationships with more than just host nation and local units here in Germany while helping them to stay up to speed on the law enforcement side of the Military Police Corps.” Working at an Army garrison spread out over several small kasernes in a major German tourism city was a change of pace for some of the Guardsmen. For Iraq veteran Spc. Talia Whittle, working for a garrison MP station performing routine street and perimeter patrols was new after her tour downrange. “It’s regular cop duties,” Whittle explained. “I’m not used to that — never done it before, so it’s a first time experience. I’ve always done



Spc. Marcus Cosby, Garmisch and Sgt. Mike Pulmones of the 72nd Military Police Company, Nevada National Guard, make a routine traffic stop near the elementary school on Artillery Kaserne.

combat — that was different. “It’s my first time being to Garmisch, Germany. I really like it a lot,” she added. The addition of six MPs to the small local police force beefed-up random perimeter patrols and added to the garrison’s security posture. Their annual training coincided with a pig roast at Kean’s Lodge on Kramer Mountain, allowing the off-duty Guardsmen to spend a few hours socializing with military and civilian personnel from the garrison and tenant units. “It’s been a great experience to work with the Garmisch MPs — good learning objectives and task force. My personnel are loving it. It’s a great place to be,” said Harper.

An oasis awaits at the ‘secret’ (beer) garden of Alpental

Story and photos by
John Reese
USAG Garmisch Public Affairs

OK, so the 19th hole of the nine-hole Alpental Golf Course called “The Clubhaus” isn’t really a secret, but it may as well be to the non-duffer majority of the Garmisch community. The course is located near the village of Burgrain on the road between Garmisch-Partenkirchen and Farchant. Alpental Golf Course is one of the oldest courses in Germany. Long ago the likes of Gen. Dwight D. “Ike” Eisenhower played here. The course is operated by Garmisch Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation and is shared with the local German golf club under a co-use agreement. “Under the latest maintenance contract, the course has never looked better,” said garrison host nation liaison and avid golfer Andrea Winter. “The fairways and greens are well-tended, and the course always has customers, rain or shine, the only exception being when it’s buried under a blanket of snow, of course; even in winter, the course is open using seasonal rules. If you can hit your ball and find it, the course is probably open.” You don’t have to be a golfer to enjoy the restaurant and beer garden. Open for breakfast to when the last customer leaves, the new management of the restaurant and beer garden is customer-service oriented and eager to please. The restaurant prices are in euros and they’ll accept dollars and plastic. They like hearing feedback on anything associated with the establishment, like menu suggestions.



The Alpental beer garden has never looked more inviting. Shady trees, bucolic surroundings and a relaxed atmosphere make it an oasis great for conversation. Inset: Bechir Gabher welcomes the garrison community and all of USAREUR to discover the restaurant at the Alpental Golf Course.

“If you want to have a special event here, let us know and we’ll arrange it,” said Bechir Gabher, head waiter. Gabher said the beer garden is a good venue for organizational outdoor events. A big bar-becue and long tables are available for any

most one hears thwack of clubs on golf balls, the songs of birds, and the low of distant cows. If the Alpine weather takes a turn, a cozy solarium offers dry sanctuary. It is pleasant and relaxing, summed up in the Bayerisch word “gemuetlich.” Peacefully enveloped by greens and trees, patrons watch golfers shoot the ninth hole of the course as they enjoy their fare. The interior decor of the restaurant is comfortable and inviting, too. Since the locker rooms, administrative offices and a bar are located in the same building, most golfers simply wheel their clubs directly to the restaurant after sinking the final putt. Another helpful convenience is a city bus stop at the course. Visitors can easily catch an inexpensive ride from anywhere in Garmisch-Partenkirchen or adjacent towns directly to Alpental. All of the buses have a large open space in the middle suitable for stowing clubs. Older guests might recognize a few touches from the past. “The front doors of the clubhouse came from an old Army chapel,” said Winter, who has been with the Army for a couple of decades and has a knack for pointing out fixtures and furniture recycled from former Army kasernes and hotels like the Patton or vonSteuben. Winter is currently organizing the annual Commander’s Cup golf tournament; details will be posted in an upcoming issue of the *Bavarian News* and on the garrison website at www.garmisch.army.mil. Alpental Golf Course green fees and the restaurant’s menu can also be found on the garrison’s FMWR page.

USAG Garmisch

Children’s (2nd grade and up)
Bicycle Traffic Classes
conducted by German Police
Saturday, 12 June, 1000-1200 hours
Artillery Kaserne,
Parking Area AAFES/Commissary

Supported by:

We are the Army’s home

Veteran receives Meritorious Service Medal

First Sgt. Alex Thompson receives the Meritorious Service Medal from Thomas Hays, U.S. Army Garrison Garmisch deputy garrison manager, as he stands for his last formation at USAG Garmisch, May 24. Thompson served the Army for more than 21 years and was recognized for his service in a ceremony. “This has been one of the best assignments in my career,” he said, adding that the Garmisch Army Community Service Office is the best he’s ever encountered.

Photo by John Reese

9th Engineer Battalion's B Co. best in Army

by Nathan Van Schaik
USAG Schweinfurt Public Affairs

Sometimes hyperbole is just a watered-down expression. But B Company, 9th Engineer Battalion, 172nd Infantry Brigade, from Schweinfurt, Germany, really is the best active duty engineer unit in the Army. They have the Itschner Award to prove it. B Co. was selected as the 2009 Itschner Award winner last month at Fort Wood, Mo. Named in honor of Lt. Gen. Emerson C. Itschner, the award is presented annually to the best active duty, Reserve and National Guard units in the Army.

Over 100 companies are eligible for the award. To win, engineer companies submit packages that demonstrate a comprehensive look at the company, according to Capt. Patrick Sullivan, B Co. commander. Units must win at each level, such as battalion, brigade and major command, to advance to the Army level.

"Bravo Company, 9th Engineers is the best sapper company I've seen in my 20 years of service," said Lt. Col. Louis Rago, commander of Task Force 3rd Battalion, 66th Armor Regiment, which the 9th Engineers supported during their recent deployment to Iraq.

During the period judged, from January to December 2009, the B Co. "Outlaws" made a major impact on the Diyala Province in Iraq in preparation for the Baghdad elections, Sullivan said.

"Basically, we searched for mines, IEDs and homemade explosives that could possibly hinder or destroy vehicles," said Sgt. Christopher Holland, one of B Co.'s section leaders.

Before that time, the area had not been cleared since 2003, according to Sullivan. Littered with antitank mines and stockpiles of weapons caches, B Co. cleared routes to ensure freedom of maneuverability for U.S. forces.

In total, the company conducted 253 route clearance patrols clearing 29,800 kilometers of routes, found 67 improvised explosive devices and suffered 20 IED strikes in which seven Soldiers received the Purple Heart medal.

"We went out and made it as safe as possible for the infantry and for other people to move around and perform their operations," said Spc. Greg Tedford.

This is the 9th Engineer Battalion's third Itschner. The battalion last won the award in 2002 when C Company took the honors for a peacekeeping mission in Kosovo. Spc. Caquan

Palmer of B Co. spoke on the differences between those missions.

"As Soldiers, any job we're given we're going to do it to the best of our ability," he said. "Most Soldiers would rather be outside in the field than in the classroom or behind a desk. But one part is necessary for others. So if everyone does what they need to do, where they need to do it, then I'm satisfied."

"We went through the most experiences in this field engineer-wise," said Holland. "As far as an engineer goes, we did our real task of finding and clearing mines."

When you're among the best in the Army, there seems little room for improvement. But for Battalion Commander Lt. Col. Jason C. Gilberti, who only recently assumed command, May 12, and arrived while the battalion is peaking, this is the time to continue to grow and improve.

"The team just continues to get better and better every day," Gilberti said. "Right now we're getting ready to do collective training. That gets back to the hallmarks of combat engineering. We call them the three B's: building, bridging and breaching."

In the coming months, the 9th Engineer Battalion will conduct squad-level field exercises focusing



Courtesy photo

Soldiers from B Company, 9th Engineer Battalion, 172nd Infantry Brigade, from Schweinfurt, Germany, work with local Iraqi Army engineers on the construction of checkpoints at a Joint Security Station. B Company was selected as the 2009 Itschner Award winner, which is presented annually to the best active duty unit in the Army.

on warrior tasks like patrolling and route clearance techniques, according to 1st Lt. Matt Milkovich, battalion adjutant. Additionally, it will conduct demolition ranges, live-fire drills and

continue advancing its sapper skills. This training is designed to allow the sappers, or combat engineers, to be well-trained for any mission to which they are assigned, Milkovich said.



Volunteer of the Year awards were presented to 26 volunteers, nominated by various community organisations for their outstanding efforts. Some logged more than 2,000 hours of service, which is equivalent to an entire year of full time work.

Community volunteers are stars of Schweinfurt

Story and photo by
Eva Bergmann
USAG Schweinfurt Public Affairs

The love and dedication of countless volunteers transforms military installations worldwide into communities. To honor the volunteers whose selfless service significantly shaped life in the Schweinfurt community, the Schweinfurt garrison hosted a ceremony at the Ledward Theater, May 25.

The Volunteer of the Year ceremony recognized every volunteer, present or absent, who logged at least one hour between April 1, 2009 and March 31, 2010.

Bre Lawson, Rising Star winner, kicked off the ceremony with an impressive performance of Alicia Keys' song "No One," dazzling the audience and putting everyone in the mood for a great show. Vito Bryant did not disappoint and hosted the ceremony with humorous puns and a highly contagious verve.

The theme of the event was "Volunteers - The Stars of Schweinfurt" with emphasis on how these special men and women light up the community. Flashlights were passed out to the audience, symbolizing the light each "star" in the community gives off. The flashlights could be seen throughout the dark theater creating a unique festive mood.

Several leaders of Schweinfurt units came to the ceremony to honor the volunteers and highlight the significance of their services.

"They (the volunteers) are extremely important for the community," explained Lt. Col. David Hurley, commander of the 15th Engineer Battalion, "because a lot of the things that we do that are important to us and our families and our kids wouldn't happen at all without them. The number of hours that the volunteers here today dedicated shows the strength of our community."

Lt. Col. Everett Spain, Schweinfurt garrison commander, addressed volunteers with a quote from Martin Luther King, describing the true meaning of success as the size of one's contribution to humanity, which he sees manifested in

Volunteers of the Year

Steffanie Auvil	Darryl Jones
Stephanie Baker	Spc. Darci, Jordan
Sgt. 1st Class Ivan Barker	Tina McDonald
Christine Blow	Rowelyn McGee
Holly Brennan	Claudia McIntyre
Annette Carlsrud	Kim Messer
Deisha Carrillo	Amy Miska
Susi Cook	Dora Podkovyoff-Lewis
Stephanie Eccles	Diane Schmidt
Gina Feldt	Megan Stockdill
Nichole Fougner	Grete Timmons
Heide Guevara	Drexel Warner
Kathi Hite	
Josephine Itliong	

the Schweinfurt volunteers.

"I am deeply honored to have a chance to spend some time with you and recognize some of our heroes," Spain said. "When I think about volunteering in this community, I think about what we are after in Team Schweinfurt, of inclusiveness and service and teamwork and those three values are really resonated in the folks I am looking at today."

Organized by the Army Community Service staff, the event was an entertaining and uplifting experience. A video clip as well as a picture slide show, both produced by David Blakeman, program manager of the Volunteer Program in Schweinfurt, presented volunteers in action throughout the community. The audience laughed in unison as it watched images flash on the screen. Both the slideshow and video clip can be reviewed at the U.S. Army Garrison Schweinfurt ACS Facebook website. Visit www.TeamSchweinfurt.com for more.

Volunteer of the Year awards were presented to 26 volunteers, nominated by various community organizations for their outstanding efforts. Some logged over 2,000 hours of service, which is equivalent to an entire year of full-time work.

The ceremony concluded when Blakeman handed over a symbolic check to Spain with a value of over \$860,000 for the more than 41,000 hours of volunteer service that was performed.

Fair draws young scientists and inventors

Story and photo by
NATHAN VAN SCHAIK
USAG Schweinfurt Public Affairs

"Do bacteria grow faster on horse manure or in rain water?" pondered Jonathan Hurt. Giancarlo Solito asked, "Does a baseball go further when hit with a metal or wooden bat?" (Hint: His results were inconclusive; he couldn't measure the distance because he kept hitting the ball over the fence with his metal bat). And what about a correlation between the size of your ring finger and your athletic ability? Hannah McIntyre suggested that it might determine the faster runner.

These questions and many more were recently posed by students of the Schweinfurt Elementary School at its first-ever science and invention fair, May 24-28, in the school's gym.

In addition to the experiments — all of which utilized the scientific method — were a handful of ingenious inventions including Sofia Djuric's shoes made for spies, Asher Spain's trash sorter and Gianella Carrillo's dog-walking robot.

"We want children to start creating things on their own," said Jean Kenny, fifth-grade educator, science teacher and science fair organizer. The purpose of the event was to use science as a means to get young minds to create something, Kenny said.

"Minds are too sedentary, like a stagnant pond. I want to get people to start thinking young, with parent support," she said.

The winners of the science and invention fair were announced earlier this week as students from Sure Start through the fifth-grade were encouraged to participate in the event. Nearly 100 inventions and experiments were on display.

"This is the first year all students in the Schweinfurt military community are encouraged to think as inventors by inventing anything their minds can think of," Kenny said.

Judges included staff from the Schweinfurt Middle School, various volunteers with science backgrounds and Soldiers from the 9th

Engineer Battalion.

"Next year the plan is to invite the middle school, the high school and the local German community to participate with their inventions in what will become an annual event," Kenny said.

Invention winners

1st place

Gianella Carrillo, Robot With Roller Skates
Natalia Dcasio, Wind Power a Green Step to Create Electricity
Riley Merritt, Watch Band
Asher Spain, Trash Sorter
Annabelle Workman, Super Speedy Kite Reel

2nd place

Kyrese Benjamin, Airplane glider
Thomas Duncan, Pet Finder
Brenton Lehman, Handy Helper Robot
Ivy Garza, Paper Worm
Joshia Spain, Pool Safe
Christian Hayes, Kitty Feeder

3rd place

Sofia Dujuric, Spy Shoe Kit
Brome Mota, Puff Leo Wagon
Scott Magee, Alert Grenade

Honorable Mention

Vanessa Lee, Food and Drink Hat
Patricia Cook, Pull Up Bottle Holder

Science project winners

1st place

Jonathan Hunt
"Which Bacteria Grows Where?"

2nd place

Riley Merritt "Plane"

3rd place

Bailey Johnson
"Properties of magic mold"

Honorable Mention

Zachary Auvil "Toilet Paper Disintegration"
Amber Delgado "Which Type of Cloth Burns Faster?"

Spectators and judges observe science projects and inventions created by the students from Schweinfurt Elementary School as the school hosted its first-ever science and invention fair, May 24-28, in the school's gym.



Wounded warriors journey from ‘sea to shining sea’

by Scott Nielson
Army News Service

SAN FRANCISCO – Through much fanfare and the support of family members and the local community of San Francisco, 18 of our nation’s heroes embarked on a journey from San Francisco to Virginia Beach, Va.

Their 63-day, 4,000-mile journey began May 21 with a signing of San Francisco’s first Army Community Covenant at the Presidio Officer’s Club dinner to honor the riders.

Unlike other bike rides across the United States, the Sea to Shining Sea Ride is composed of wounded warriors, veterans who are overcoming injuries they received while serving their country.

Rider Andrew Hartzell shattered his right femur and spent three years at Walter Reed Medical Center, undergoing surgeries and physical therapy. He wants to let other wounded veterans know that there is still a lot they can accomplish.

“Since I learned I was able to ride a bike again, it has been my dream to ride across the country,” said Hartzell.

The journey holds special significance for the riders, each one with a story of struggling to recover from their injuries and finding ways to cope with their new lives.

Clay Rankin uses a special bike that lets him lie flat relieving the pressure on his back so he can pedal.

He said the adjustment to life after his injury was really difficult.

“Realizing that I always need someone to help me move around was not easy, but I get on my bike, and I am able to move, and I can have that freedom again,” he said.

After a spinal cord Injury in Iraq in 2003, Rankin said he needed two years to heal, but



Courtesy photo

Wounded warriors begin their journey across the U.S. by dipping their tires in the San Francisco Bay. Their 63-day, 4,000-mile journey began May 21.

since then, he has worked as an advocate for other wounded veterans.

Rankin said the ride is an opportunity to shed light on the struggles of injured veterans and to help them and others’ understand that there is life after injury.

“If I can demonstrate to at least one wounded vet that there is life after an injury, then this journey is worth it,” said Rankin.

As they move across the country, they will

be joined by other wounded warriors and their friends and families to show support. Not all participants are able to go the entire way, but at each stop, they will be greeted by other wounded warriors.

“Hopefully we can help other wounded veterans see that there is still so much they can do,” said Hartzell.

Bay Area military community groups and veterans organizations paid tribute to the riders

as they signed the Army Community Covenant which is an agreement between local communities and the Army to improve the quality of life for service members and their families, both at their current duty stations and while they are deployed.

“All of us gathered from the San Francisco Bay Community send out our well wishes and prayers with you on your journey. Please be assured we will be with you in spirit,” said Brig. Gen. Rock Donahue, the commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers South Pacific Division.

“The strength of our service members comes from the strength of their families; and the strength of the families is supported by the strength of the community; and the strength of the community ultimately comes from the support of employers, educators, civic and business leaders, and of course, its citizens,” said Donahue.

The Sea to Shining Sea trek is a great opportunity for communities across America to connect with our military, especially our wounded warriors, and change the way the world perceives all athletes, said Donahue.

“Since most riders are disabled veterans – many from Iraq and Afghanistan – the ride is providing Americans dramatic proof that disabled veterans can accomplish amazing feats most people dream about”, said Donahue.

The Sea to Shining Sea Bike Ride is sponsored by World TEAM Sports, a nonprofit dedicated to changing the way the world perceives athletes by creating sports opportunities for individuals of all abilities. The riders will update their progress and write about their trip on the website www.s2ssbikeride.org.

Editor’s Note: Scott Nielson serves with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers South Pacific Division.



Courtesy photos

Spc. Jeremy Schnitzler, who works as a personnel administration center clerk and assistant armorer for 23rd Ordnance Company, 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, sets up for a kill.

18th CSSB Soldier makes All Army Volleyball Team

by 1st Lt. Jennifer Dyrce
18th CSSB Public Affairs

After several tryouts last month in Fort Bragg, N.C., and Fort Cherry, N.C., Spc. Jeremy Schnitzler of the 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion’s 23rd Ordnance Company was chosen for the male All Army Volleyball Team.

Schnitzler was one of only 22 Soldiers invited to try out Armywide and was selected as one of 13 players for indoor volleyball and four for beach volleyball. The Army placed third overall in the military branches tournament.

Schnitzler, who has been playing for 10 years, found out about the tryouts by researching the All Army teams on the internet. He sent in his application and information in the hopes he would be called.

“When I was at Fort Hood, I would drive more than an hour each way every day to play in the Austin, Texas,



Schnitzler bumps a pass to his teammate during a pick-up beach volleyball game. He was one of 13 players selected for the All Army Volleyball Team and is guaranteed a chance to try out for the 2011 team.

club volleyball teams,” said Schnitzler, who works as a personnel administration center clerk and assistant armorer.

Because he earned a position on this year’s team, he is guaranteed the opportunity to try out for the 2011 All-Army Volleyball Team.

“Playing on the team was an awesome experience,” Schnitzler said, and I can’t wait until next year.”

IMCOM race makes a splashing debut

(Clockwise from right) Joe Peterson splashes through a puddle during the Installation Management Command Mountain Bike Series 2010, May 15. Numerous Soldiers, civilians and family members participated in the annual bicycle race, showing off skills and endurance at every twist, turn and jump of the muddy six-kilometer course. The 20-week series, sponsored by Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation in conjunction with Outdoor Recreation, is currently being held in various locations around Europe.

Jay Danna cruises past a lake on the Grafenwoehr course, during the grueling 24-kilometer race.

Michael Trussell rounds a sharp corner during the Grafenwoehr leg of the Installation Management Command Mountain Bike Series 2010, held near the Grafenwoehr Training Area in the town of Huetten.



Photos by Molly Hayden



IMCOM Mountain Bike Series Schedule

June 19 - USAG Hohenfels
July 10-11 - USAG Kaiserslautern
July 17 - USAG Ansbach
Aug. 7 - USAG Bamberg
Aug. 14-15 - Spangdahlem Air Base
Sept. 4 - USAG Garmisch
Sept. 19 - USAG Wiesbaden
Oct. 2 - USAG Hohenfels,
U.S. Forces Championship

For more information, contact your local Outdoor Recreation.



Visit the U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr Web page, www.grafenwoehr.army.mil, for up-to-date news, events, contact information and much more.

Army testing autonomous robot vehicle

by Kris Osborn
Army News Service

ABERDEEN PROVING GROUNDS, Md. – The U.S. Army’s Autonomous Platform Demonstrator, or APD, is a 9.6 ton, six-wheeled, hybrid-electric robotic vehicle currently undergoing developmental and mobility testing at Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Md.; the demonstrator vehicle represents the state of the art in unmanned ground vehicle mobility technology.

With its advanced hybrid-electric drive train, the 15-foot-long vehicle, being developed by the U.S. Army Tank Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center (TARDEC), can achieve speeds of over 50 mph.

When equipped with its autonomous navigation system, the APD is configured with



GPS waypoint technology, an inertial measurement unit and computer algorithms which enable it to move autonomously at speeds up to 50mph while avoiding obstacles in its path.

“The vehicle has obstacle detection and avoidance technology,” said Dr. Jim Overholt, senior research scientist in robotics, Tank Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center (TARDEC).

The mobility testing is aimed at advancing and developing the robot’s ability to maneuver at higher speeds while maintaining extreme terrain-ability at lower speeds.

“We’ve run it through courses, slope testing and brake testing,” said Chris Ostrowski, associate director for Vehicle Electronics and Architectures at TARDEC.

The APD is currently testing high speed maneuverability, such as lane changing. “This is a challenging controls problem with a skid

steer vehicle. We want the robot to be stable when performing maneuvers like this, but we also want it to retain the other mobility characteristics that it possesses at lower speeds,” said Ostrowski.

Other mobility characteristics include the ability to climb a one-meter step, navigate a 60-percent slope, and pivot turn in place.

Being a series hybrid-electric vehicle, the APD is propelled by six in-hub electric motors and has a diesel generator which charges its lithium ion batteries.

“The state of the art hybrid-electric drive train is just one of the mobility technologies we are demonstrating with this platform,” said Andrew Kerbrat, APD project manager, TARDEC.

Other technologies being demonstrated include advanced suspension systems, thermal and power management systems, robotic safety systems, and lightweight hull technologies.

“We’ve made a lot of progress with this platform in a short time period. From concept to wheels on the ground was just a shade over two years, and in the eight months since then, we’ve driven almost 3,000 kilometers and have demonstrated 95 percent of the metrics that we were trying to show with this platform,” said Kerbrat.

APD is the mobility platform being used by the Robotic Vehicle Control Architecture (RVCA) Army Technology Objective, also out of TARDEC.

Working with PEO-Integration, RVCA has integrated a suite of system control, display and sensing hardware and software onto APD that allow it to be controlled real-time by a soldier, or operate in an autonomous mode.

“It uses a variety of sensors and a Ladar—a laser/radar scanning radar that can detect moving objects at distances,” said Overholt. Additionally, RVCA provides Reconnaissance Surveillance and Target Acquisition capabilities.

“It has a four-meter mast with a sensor ball on top so it goes up pretty high and can see out quite a ways,” said Chris Ostrowski.

“When you combine the autonomy and control capabilities provided by RVCA with the extreme mobility characteristics of APD it allows the Soldier operator to quickly deploy a mission payload precisely where he wants it, and over some very tough terrain,” says Kerbrat.

“The bottom line is that we are providing the soldier with a significant capability that will assist him in the performance of his mission while keeping him safer in the process.”

Conference brings multinational NCOs together

Continued from page 4

Netherlands Army Command Sgt. Maj. T.J.A. Witlox. “The comparison is there’s a big body: there’s a brain, there’s a backbone, and the legs. The legs being the Soldiers, we have to prepare them; we have to train them we have to equip them; we have to take care of them; and it’s the NCOs’ role to do that. The brain will think of plans, and the NCOs will make things happen. They are definitely the backbone, and I think it’s the same in all armies.”

The three-day conference included multiple training presentations, group discussions, training demonstrations, and a visit to the area where Operation Market Garden – the largest airborne attack of World War II – took place. The days were long, but the participants’ spirits seemed to stay high.

“We’re building trust. Among Soldiers, trust is probably the most important thing we have with each other,” said Blackwood. “(When) you achieve that trust, that’s when you can really go forward and do some of the missions that we do together.”

While the interaction is designed to develop the capabilities of NCOs, the conference has another not-so-thinly disguised aim – to improve the proficiency and quality of life of junior soldiers and mentor them to be the next generation of NCO leaders.

“Events like this are a perfect opportunity for exchanging experiences,” said Sgt. Maj. of the Armed Forces of the Slovak Republic Richard Fabricius. “It’s our (duty) to soldiers to get as much as possible of the knowledge and expertise of other service members of other countries serving in different positions. And that’s

our contribution to the soldiers. We’re trying to get as much knowledge as possible so we can transfer it, take it and use it in our military to make them better soldiers.”

Watched by an interested gathering of senior enlisted leaders from across Europe and North America, a Royal Netherlands Army basic rifle instructor demonstrates proper firing position techniques for a Dutch soldier as part of a live-fire training demonstration during the 4th Annual Conference of European Armies for Noncommissioned Officers, May 11. The Netherlands hosted the U.S. Army Europe-sponsored conference this year.



40,000 defective helmets recalled

by Headquarters,
Department of the Army
Army News Service

PENTAGON – The Army is recalling 44,000 combat helmets made by ArmorSource and Rabintex. If you were issued one of these helmets, you must turn it in to the Central Issue Facility to be issued a new helmet.

Here’s how to tell if your helmet is part of the recall:

(1) The first thing to check for is the manufacturer’s label, which can be found under the helmet’s ear flap. The label should say ArmorSource or Rabintex.

(2) If the label is not there, check the retention system hardware, the screws that hold the chin strap to the helmet. If the helmet’s hardware has a jacket bolt and machine screw, it was manufactured by ArmorSource or Rabintex and is part of the recall.

(3) Lastly, check for the helmet’s bench mark on the inside crown of the helmet. You may have to remove some Velcro coins to see the bench mark. Some ArmorSource helmets will have the bench mark “ARS.” However, some helmets do not have any bench mark.

If you can’t identify the manufacturer using these check points, turn the helmet in for replacement.



Check for the manufacturer's label under the helmet's ear flap. If the label reads ArmorSource or Rabintex, immediately turn in your helmet.

Army testing green laser kits in Afghanistan

By Debi Dawson
Army News Service

PICATINNY ARSENAL, N.J. – The Army’s Program Executive Office Soldier is fielding several Green Laser Escalation of Force, or GLEF, kits to units in Afghanistan for operational assessment.

The GLEF systems are mounted as an accessory to Common Remotely Operated Weapon Stations or CROWS, the turret system that provides Soldiers the ability to employ cameras, sensors and weapons from inside the protection of an armored vehicle. The nonlethal, green-light laser gives Soldiers an

interim step before escalating force while conducting daily operations.

“Protecting civilian populations is critical to our success in fighting insurgencies,” said Col. Douglas Tamilio, project manager for Soldier Weapons. “Green lasers have proven safe and effective as a non-lethal tool that sends a strong message without the need to employ deadly force.”

The GLEF system emits a wide band of green light that temporarily disrupts a person’s vision so that driving a vehicle or aiming a weapon becomes difficult if not impossible. One application would be to warn civilians away from

checkpoints and other areas where their safety is at risk. At closer distances, the lasers provide an immediate, nonlethal capability to deter aggressive actions.

“The human eye is four times more sensitive to green light than to red light during the day and far more sensitive at night,” explained Maj. Michael Pottratz, program manager for Crew Served Weapons. “The effect is the same as looking at the sun for a fraction of a second. The lasers send a warning signal across language and cultural barriers to keep innocent people from entering into harm’s way.”

While green lasers have been

commercially available for a number of years, the system configuration for use as a CROWS accessory is a new development. By employing previously tested and approved technologies, engineers were able to design, assemble and field the new configuration for use in CROWS systems in less than 12 months.

Select units will test the systems for 90 days and report back to PEO Soldier on system performance and its impact on operations. Soldier input will be incorporated into the final designs.

Editor’s Note: Debi Dawson serves with Program Executive Office Soldier Public Affairs.

Tick tips protect pets and owners

Continued from page 11

It is possible to receive the immunizations on an accelerated schedule. Talk to your health care provider for more information. As with most immunizations, there are side effects of the vaccine. This can include: fatigue, upset stomach, fever and tenderness or redness of the injection site. If you have an egg allergy, you should not receive this vaccine.

Again, FSME immunizations are not available at Army health clinics. If you are interested in receiving the vaccine, you may get a referral from your local health clinic to have the immunization administered on the German economy.

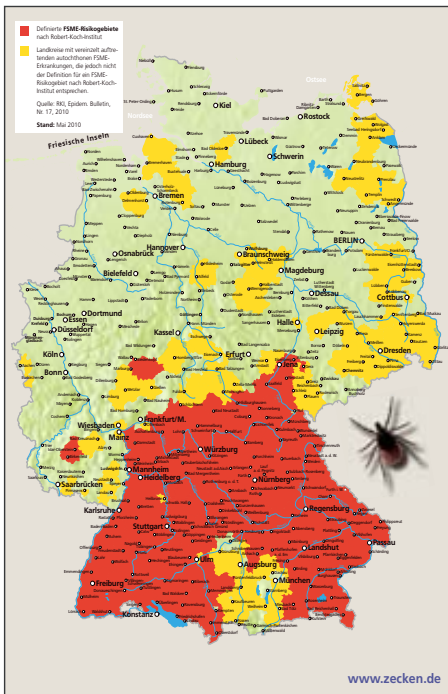
Unfortunately, the ticks aren’t going anywhere. Now that you know more about

your options, take time to decide which preventive measures are best for you and your family. When in doubt, contact your local health clinic.

Information for this article was taken from the CDC and the Robert Koch Institute in Germany.

Editor’s Note: Catherine Gehrau is a registered nurse at the Katterbach Health Clinic.

The red areas on the map to the right represent high-risk tick areas; the yellow areas are minimal-risk areas. Pet owners and outdoor enthusiasts should take precautions to protect against tick-borne diseases this summer.



How to remove a tick

- Grasp the tick with tweezers as close to your skin as possible and with steady motion, pull the tick’s body away from your skin.
- Clean the skin with soap and water.
- Throw the dead tick away in the household trash.
- Do not be alarmed if the tick’s mouthparts remain in the skin. Once separated from the body, the mouthpart can no longer transmit disease.
- Watch for signs of illness such as a fever or rash, which may occur seven to 14 days after the bite. If these develop, see your health care provider.



A birds-eye view (from a Blackhawk helicopter) shows dozens of new buildings dotting the U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr landscape. Much of the growth is due to the Efficient Basing-Grafenwoehr project, which provided more than a billion dollars to create facilities and make improvements in the military community.

Photo by Molly Hayden

Iraq vet hiking across nation to raise \$5 million

Story and photos by
John Crosby
Army News Service

CAMP ATTERBURY, Ind. — Iraq combat veteran Troy Yocum is walking 7,000 miles across the nation, banging his drum, gathering followers and trying to meet his goal of raising \$5 million for U.S. veterans and their families in need.

His 16-month journey, dubbed “The Drum Hike,” began April 17 at the Kentucky Derby “Thunder Over Louisville” celebration. So far, he has traveled more than 400 miles, stopping to gain support at military installations, small towns and big cities.

Yocum returned to Louisville, Ky., for the Kentucky Derby. From there he has pushed north into Indiana, stopping at Camp Atterbury. He also participated in the OneAmerica 500 Festival Mini-Marathon in downtown Indianapolis, May 8.

It wasn’t by chance that Yocum chose to serve in the military. His family has a long line of Army veterans, including his uncle who served in the Vietnam War, as well as his grandfather and four great uncles who served in World War II.

Yocum decided to join the Indiana National Guard as an infantryman and enlisted, Aug. 21, 2001, just 22 days before the terrorist attacks on 9/11.

“It felt really great to follow in the footsteps of my family members,” said Yocum. “I wanted to prove myself.”

Yocum said he feels an obligation to help his fellow service members after serving two years with the Indiana National Guard’s 151st Infantry Regiment and deploying to Iraq and Kuwait November 2008 through August 2009.

Inspired by his World War II veteran grandfather who took his own life, and a close military friend who lost his home after returning from deployment, Yocum decided to make it his personal mission to find ways to help struggling veterans.

He was honorably discharged from the military, Jan. 5, but his service carried on.

“After my contract was up, I signed a new one,” said Yocum. “I signed up for a 16-month, 7,000-mile hike across America to help military families. Now, I am a Soldier for the Soldiers.”

He began planning his hike while deployed to Iraq. “Some played video games to pass the time,” said Yocum. “Some read, some wrote. I looked for ways to



Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels signs Iraq veteran Troy Yocum’s Louisville Slugger baseball bat in petition to create a new national holiday called “Day of the Deployed.” Yocum solicited signatures and donations at the OneAmerica 500 Festival Mini-Marathon in downtown Indianapolis, May 8, during his 7,000-mile hike across the nation. He plans on presenting Congress with the signed bats when he reaches the nation’s capitol.



Iraq veteran Troy Yocum walks with his dog Emmie, banging his drum as he makes his way toward the Camp Atterbury Joint Maneuver Training Center in central Indiana, May 6.

raise money for charities.”

Yocum has raised the money necessary to fund the walk through sponsors like Soldier’s Angels, and many other organizations and businesses.

With the money donated by sponsors, he was able to acquire a recreational vehicle to trail him along his hike, providing him shelter when needed, medical supplies inside and food and water.

Armed with the bare essentials for the estimated 50 million steps it will take to walk across the country, Yocum’s plan to return his gratitude to service members is slowly becoming a reality.

“The momentum is growing every single day,” said Yocum. “The support has been amazing. Our Facebook (support) page is growing 400 to 800 people a day. I really want to succeed in earning the \$5 million.”

Raising funds for the troops is not the only goal in Yocum’s mission. Additionally, he and Soldier’s Angels are working to cre-

ate a new nationally recognized holiday for deployed Soldiers.

During his hike he carries a Louisville Slugger baseball bat, donated by Louisville Slugger, his first sponsor. His bat doubles as a petition, which he has had signed by governors, congressmen and military officials along his hike. Yocum plans to bring the petition bat to Congress as he walks through Washington, D.C.

“You can file away a piece of paper and forget about it,” said Yocum smiling. “I figure they can’t file away a baseball bat.”

During his trek through Indiana, his bat gained several signatures including Medal of Honor recipient Hershel Woodrow “Woody” Williams, as well as Indianapolis Mayor Gregory A. Ballard and Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels at the minimarathon in Indianapolis, May 8.

In addition to politicians, Yocum will be visiting with veteran support groups, wounded warriors and families of service members

who’ve made the ultimate sacrifice overseas.

He isn’t making this trip alone. He is accompanied by his new wife Mareike, whom he married May 2, about 256 miles into the hike.

“I care about these families that are struggling,” said Mareike. “I feel very honored that I could be a part of this. It’s amazing how many great people we meet every day, how many comments we get on Facebook every day. At times it brings tears to my eyes. We want to help these people as much as we can.”

Also providing support and walking beside Yocum is his dog Emmie, a Japanese Shiba Inu. Emmie is a working therapy dog certified by the Penny’s From Heaven Foundation to provide companionship to those in need.

Additionally, Vietnam War veteran and “Purple Heart Parachutist” Dallas Wittgenfeld drops in on the hike. Wittgenfeld served during the Vietnam War years in the same battalion as Yocum, the 151st Infantry “War Hawks.” Showing his support for Yocum, he plans on parachuting into events along the Drum Hike route, waving his giant American Flag.

Wittgenfeld donated a very special gift to Yocum’s cause. He gave Yocum his Vietnam War-era Army ammunition can. Wittgenfeld personally used the can to help collect the first million dollars donated to build the Vietnam War Memorial. He stood on the steps of the Capitol Building in Washington, D.C., with Jan Scruggs, founder of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, and collected the first donations. Yocum now uses the ammunition can to collect donations for his cause while on the road.

“I haven’t worn my uniform since the Vietnam War,” said Wittgenfeld, “I’ve never wanted to. I’m wearing it today for the Drum Hiker. I want to spread the word and support for him because we never had that when I served.”

Wittgenfeld drove his van from his home near Daytona, Fla., back to Indiana “War Hawks” country with his 288-square-foot American Flag waving from his rear bumper to link up with Yocum and show his support.

Yocum said he was floored when Wittgenfeld contacted him about parachuting into the cities as he hiked.

After departing Indiana, Yocum and his team will head to Chicago, St. Louis, Los Angeles, Washington, D.C., Boston and finally make their way back home. The hike is scheduled to come to an end in August 2011 in Louisville.

Competition boosts morale for 12th CAB spouses

Continued from page 1

litter carry and a 25-question test based on military knowledge or 12th CAB history,” said Capt. Myra Galusha, the officer in charge of the Combat Spouse Day.

The final challenge was a one-mile, relay-style mud run. Each spouse sloshed through about 400 meters of mud with a rubber ducky rifle as the baton.

“This is just an awesome event for all the women to come through when the guys are deployed. They take the kids for us, and we’re just allowed to be women for the day and get dirty and muddy, and it’s just a great experience,” said Nichole Smith, the wife of an Apache pilot currently deployed to Afghanistan with the 2nd Battalion, 159th Aviation Regiment.

Smith’s team adopted a theme they thought perfectly suited their current role as wives of deployed Soldiers — Rosie the Riveter, the World War II icon who coined the phrase, “We Can Do It!”

Smith and a friend determined before the event that they needed a theme that meant “Strong Women.” A button of Rosie the Riveter was the inspiration for the blue shirts and red and white polka-dotted bandanas worn by Smith’s team.

“As a matter of fact, this button happened to get in one of our packages when our husbands deployed,” Smith explained. “We were given a packet of things to do and information. I kept the button. My friend told me, ‘We’re just like her. When the men deployed during World War II, the women had to pick up the slack. I said, ‘Yeah, that’s what we should be, because we have to deal with the kids and everything else.’”

Smith’s team did well in all events, but, she explained, lost ground during the written test event.

“We didn’t know the brigade commander’s middle name, so we fell a bit short,” Smith laughed.

The day’s festivities culminated with a barbecue and an awards ceremony, where a 12th CAB trophy and framed certificates were presented. A team from 3-158th Avn. Regt. and two teams from 2-159th Avn. Regiment proudly claimed the competition’s top three positions.

“The spouses had great costumes, great attitudes and were very competitive. This was just a really great event,” Galusha said.

Trio brings fun to Hohenfels

Continued from page 17

their lives. We wanted to contribute as we do best, which is to play music.”

While Gispert said he had never been around a military post before the USO tour, bassist Tim Deaux said pulling through the front gate and seeing the post exchange gave him a sense of comforting nostalgia.

Deaux, a self-proclaimed Air Force brat, said his father first encouraged the group to perform a USO tour.

After approaching their booking agent with the idea, Deaux said the group was surprised when the USO agreed to have them.

“We were all really excited to do it. We thought we’d love to go, but will they have us?” drummer Julian Dorio said.

Despite their credentials, the band said multiple times they don’t consider themselves a “huge name,” and said they simply hope to bring a bit of home to American troops stationed overseas.

“We just want them to have a good time; we don’t assume people know who we are. Hopefully it’s a treat and it takes their mind off things for a moment,” said Deaux.

“We bring some of the culture from home by coming over here to play, whether we’re a huge name or not, and if we can offer that at all it’s a pleasure for us,” said Dorio.

Though the group said they were “having a ball”— and judging by their schoolboy excitement when they saw the tanks outside the dining facility, they were — they each said their entertainment was not the reason for their visit.

“We’re here for everybody else,” said Gispert.

Have a story idea?

Call DSN 475-7113, CIV 09641-83-7113.